

Battle Through the Heavens

(斗破苍穹)

Chapter

100-199

Tian Can Tu Dou

(天蚕土豆)

Story Description:

In a land where no magic is present. A land where the strong makes the rules and weak has to obey. A land filled with alluring treasures and beauty yet also filled with unforeseen danger. Xiao Yan, who has shown talents none had seen in decades, suddenly three years ago lost everything, his powers, his reputation, and his promise to his mother. What sorcery has caused him to lose all of his powers? And why has his fiancée suddenly shown up?

Original Story can be found here: [Link](#)

Chapter 100: The Classification of One's Potential

The unexpected female voice was so gentle that it gave off a heartbreaking feeling. Under this tenderness, Xiao Yan felt a little absentminded despite his mental strength. A moment later, he finally followed the source of the voice and gazed into the tent.

In the shadows of the tent, a lady dressed in green was standing prettily with a grin. The smile on her pretty face was warm and her eyes looked around quickly. The tenderness in her gaze was like clear water quietly passing through, causing people to become intoxicated by the lady's special vivid gentleness.

The lady looked much older than Xiao Yu and the others. The voluminous and exquisite posture, leaked out a mature loveliness that was molded by the years. This kind of natural loveliness far surpassed what Xiao Yu and these immature girls had.

Xiao Yan swept his gaze over the lady. Although this lady's appearance was slightly inferior to Xun Er and Xiao Yu, her genuine gentle disposition was something that amazed Xiao Yan.

The lady on the opposite was as gentle as water, demonstrating the epitome of gentleness.

Ever since this lady appeared, Xiao Yan realised that the gaze of some of the young male students in the tent had quietly become passionate. The gazes that they gave her also contained an inexplicable sentiment.

Having discovered this phenomenon, Xiao Yan immediately shook his head quietly. It seemed that these guys had some sort of crush on the lady, which was not something surprising. The younger guys usually liked women who were more matured than them... Uh, this seemed to be called having a preference for a mature woman.

"Teacher Ruo Lin, ha ha, Yu-Er has missed you dearly."

Seeing the gentle woman who had appeared in the tent, Xiao Yu

immediately cried out in surprise. Following which, she pounced forward and with a smile, tightly hugged that seemingly plump but not fat waist.

“Hehe, Yu-er, are you enjoying your leave?” The gentle lady who was called Teacher Ruo Lin smilingly said as she embraced Xiao Yu.

“It has been not bad.” With a saucy smile, Xiao Yu bit Teaching Ruo Lin’s ears and joked softly, “Teacher’s becoming gentler and gentler. If this continues, any man who catches the eye of teacher in the future would be utterly trapped by this gentleness.”

A shallow redness appeared on her face as Teacher Ruo Lin shook her head helplessly. After spoiling Xiao Yu by patting her head, she abruptly faced Xiao Yan and the others and raised her chin. In her gentle voice, she said, “Are these the people you brought over? It seems that they are quite good.”

“Ha ha, of course.” Proudly lifting her chest, Xiao Yu tilted her head and fiercely stared at Luo Bu and complained softly, “That guy is becoming more and more arrogant.”

“Who told you to purposefully provoke him? You should know his feelings for you. After acting so intimately with another man before his eyes, it would be strange if he did not find an excuse to make things difficult.” Teacher Ruo Lin helplessly said

“That will only increase my dislike for him.” Xiao Yu curled her lips and said.

Shaking her head, Ruo Lin released Xiao Yu. She slowly walked forward and spoke with a smile to the ten plus students under the hot sun, “Dear students, come in.”

Hearing her open her mouth to speak, the new students who were perspiring under the hot sun were immediately filled with happiness. They quickly got up and entered the shade of the tent in a haggardly manner.

It must be said that even though this method of wearing down the spirit of the new students was a little merciless, it was effective. At the very least, the arrogance of the new students who were entering the tent was much

diminished compared to when they had first arrived. All of them withdrew under the shadows of the tent, their eyes constantly roaming all over the interior of the tent.

Sweeping a smile that was overflowing with gentleness over everyone, Teacher Ruo Ning finally landed her gaze on Xiao Yan's face. She smiled and said softly, "Luo Bu does not have any evil intentions. Before, he was only a little angry so his actions were a little reckless. Please don't blame him."

"Haha, Teacher must be joking. I'm a good natured person. Why would I blame Luo Bu senior." Xiao Yan rubbed his head and 'shyly' smiled.

Hearing this, most of the people in the tent rolled their eyes and laughed in their hearts. Did this person not feel that saying these words after rudely knocking out a senior was a little burlesque?

After staring intently at the smiling young man in front of her, Teacher Ruo Ning blinked her long eyelashes. She had a foreboding that after so many years of being a teacher, she had finally met a student who would give her the greatest headache.

After letting her imagination run wild, Teacher Ruo Lin shook her head and ordered two male students to bring the fainted Ge La in. She lowered her head and observed Ge La's wounds. Immediately, she pressed her eyebrows together and stared at the innocent looking Xiao Yan with censure.

Being assaulted by the full force of her gaze, Xiao Yan felt his insides trembled. The corner of his mouth cracked but he was not distracted.

After thinking for a moment with a frown, Teacher Ruo Ning extended her clean white hand and instantly lightly touched Ge La's hand under the envious gaze of the male students. A pale blue moist energy was guided by her hand as it entered Ge La's body, helping calm the disordered Dou Qi in his body and healing some of the injuries caused by Xiao Yan.

Amongst the different classification of Dou Qi, the water type Dou Qi was the most gentle kind. In the absence of any healing medicine, water type Dou Qi was the most suitable choice to help treat wounds. Hence,

water type Dou Qi practitioners were also commonly known as “Mobile Healing Medicine”. In many mercenary groups, someone who possessed the water element Qi Technique was a must. After all, when fellow members were severely injured, only water or wood type Dou Qi would be able to help the member gain sufficient time to heal.

Under the warmth of Teacher Ruo Ning’s Dou Qi, the unconscious Ge La quickly woke up with a groan. Opening his eyes and watching the smiling Teacher Ruo Ning beside him, the former’s eyes were filled with intoxication and worship. Instantly, he embarrassingly got up. His eyes swept across Xiao Yan and he cowardly hid his eyes.

“Are you alright?” Releasing his head, Ruo Lin gently asked.

“Thank you teacher.” Ge La gratefully nodded his head. “It’s good to know that you are fine.” Smiling, Teacher Ruo Lin turned around and elegantly sat down on the leader’s chair. With a full smile, she watched the new students gathered in the tent. She shook her white hand and a ring on her finger flickered while a green scroll made of goatskin and a pen appeared in her hands.

Lifting her eyes, Teacher Ruo Lin smiled in a lazy demeanor. “Dear students, congratulations on passing the test. Now, you can be considered to have entered the Jia Nan Academy. As the school needs to divide the students according to their potential, I will need to know your current actual strength.”

“8 Duan Qi would belong to the F class in terms of potential. This is the minimum requirement to enter Jia Nan Academy.”

“9 Duan Qi would belong to the E class in terms of potential.”

“A one star Dou Zhe, D class, two star Dou Zhe, C class. Continuing on in this manner, the highest class is the S class for those who are five star Dou Zhe. Of course, this is restricted to those who are younger than twenty.”

“Hehe. For over a decade, Jia Nan Academy has only seen one student who has S class potential. Now that little Witch is quite incredible in the academy.” Covering her red lips and softly laughing, Ruo Lin’s tall and

slender eyelashes lightly blinked. "I don't really have extravagant hopes of meeting someone in the same class as the little Witch but if I can obtain some in the B or C classes, I will be satisfied."

Speaking to this point, Ruo Lin stealthily swept across Xiao Yan and Xun Er. From her perception, out of all those in the tent, only these two gave her an unpredictable feeling. She forecasted that the strength of the two of them would not be lower than the C class.

She was not the only one who was guessing. All those in the tent who had witnessed Xiao Yan in action were also guessing in their heart. What class did the potential of this seemingly abnormal person belong to?

"Alright. Begin. Starting from the left, report your name, your Dou Qi level and age." Ruo Lin's empty hand held the ink brush and gently smiled.

Seeing that the registration was about to begin, Xiao Yu and the others in the tent were filled with interest and idly sat down in one corner.

"Heh, Yu er, what level does your clan's Xiao Yan belong to?" The few beautiful female students squeezing with Xiao Yu curiously inquired.

Hearing this, Xiao Yu narrowed her eyebrows and became silent for a moment. She had never seen Xiao Yan test his Dou Qi. Hence, she did not dare to say too much least she caused Xiao Yan embarrassment should she make a mistake. The current Xiao Yu, for no apparent reason, was strangely beginning to think for Xiao Yan. If it was in the past, she would likely be happier at the embarrassment Xiao Yan faced.

After some hesitation, Xiao Yu gave a somewhat conservative answer, "I think that he should be able to achieve C or B class."

"Wow, that is quite good already. He can be considered amongst the more talented ones entering Jia Nan Academy. When our potential was evaluated back then, the best was only a D class." Hearing this, some of the female students said with an envious gaze.

Xiao Yu lightly smiled but did not continue speaking. Her gaze was focused on the evaluation that had already begun in the middle of the tent.

“Hei Yan, Ninth stage Duan Qi, Twenty years old.”

The slightly black skinned young man sitting on the left most corner announced his information with a slightly red face.

Smiling and nodding her head, Teacher Ruo Lin quickly recorded the student's information. Her red lips parted: “E class.”

“Lin Dun, Eight Duan Qi, Nineteen years old.”

“F class.”

“Ke Li, Nine Duan Qi, Seventeen years old.”

“E class.”

.....

At the same time everyone took turns to report their information, a few new students who just passed the test outside would occasionally enter the tent. After they were strictly warned by the seniors, they quickly and obediently stood behind the queue and waited to report their information.

Amongst the twenty odd people who had reported their information, most of them were weaker than a Dou Zhe. Naturally, there were a couple of new students who originally had Nine Duan Qi but were downgraded to an eight Duan Qi after failing to become a Dou Zhe.

Prior to Xiao Yan's turn, the most outstanding one in the group was a seventeen year old one star Dou Zhe. According to his potential calculation, this was only a D class. Even if it was only this, it gave Ruo Lin some happiness. After all, for a seventeen year old to reach a one star Dou Zhe meant that he had potential.

After the new student in front of Xiao Yan finished reporting his information, all the gazes in the tent immediately focused on the young man who was about to fall asleep from the long wait.

“Xiao Yan ge-ge, it's your turn.” Seeing the hazy eyes of Xiao Yan beside her, Xun Er helplessly tried to wake him.

“Oh.” Xiao Yan, who had just woken up, quickly rubbed the non-existent saliva from his mouth. His gaze shifted towards the front only to find the

beautiful Teacher Ruo Lin smiling widely at him. With an awkward smile, Xiao Yan flipped his hand and revealed his clean white teeth. "I cannot be compared to the Little Witch that teacher had mentioned. After calculating everything and weighing myself repeatedly... It seems that I can barely be counted as an A class."

"Uh..." Xiao Yan's somewhat regretful words barely left his mouth when the tent which was full of whispers, suddenly became silent.

At one corner, Luo Bu's face twitched. He did not expect that this young man of sixteen or seventeen years of age would actually be of equal strength to him.

Beside Luo Bu, Ge La's face had slightly whitened. His face was full of bitterness. No wonder he lost so terribly. This guy was a wolf in sheep's skin.

"Yu-er... you... Didn't you say that he was at most only a C or B class? Why did it jump to an A class. During each recruitment of the Jia Nan Academy, there will not be more than a hundred students who possess a class A potential." A few female students muttered as they stared at Xiao Yan with open mouths.

Staring intently at the young man's delicate face, Xiao Yu helplessly sighed and muttered, "How would I know that this guy is becoming more abnormal?"

"A class?" Ruo Lin blinked long eyelashes in wonderment. A moment later, she smiled brilliantly.

"It seems that I have found a treasure... it was true." Acting like a young lady, Teacher Ruo Ning saucily blinked her eyes. This loveliness caused some of the men in the tent to widen their eyes.

Xiao Yan rubbed his nose as Xun Er beside him suddenly laughed slightly, "Xiao Yan ge-ge, you have created a sensation once again."

"Tsk, I know that you are stronger than me. I'm afraid that the S class should be yours." Xiao Yan rolled his eyes and snapped.

"Uh... Then should I give false information?" In the time that everyone

had yet to recover from their shock, Xun Er pulled Xiao Yan clothes and secretly asked.

“Just report your real strength. Do you think I will be jealous of you? Letting the academy know some of your potential would be good for your future development. Of course, you may not be concerned about all this.” Xiao Yan shrugged his shoulder and smiled.

Xun Er pursed her lips and nodded her small head as she said lovably: “Then I will listen to Xiao Yan ge-ge.” As she spoke, she took a step forward. The agile and moving voice of the young lady reverberated throughout the tent.

“Xiao Xun Er, a six star Dou Zhe. Age... sixteen...”

On the leader’s seat, Ruo Lin, who had just raised her pen in preparation to record the information felt her hand stiffen. Her gentle face finally revealed an astonished expression!

Chapter 101: The Most Frightening One

The young lady's lively voice caused a dead silence within the tent. Everyone's gaze was dully focused on the smiling young lady in green beside Xiao Yan. They had yet to recover from the shock delivered by Xiao Yan when they were struck by one with a far greater surprise, ruthlessly pressing down on their heads.

Six star Dou Zhe... sixteen years old... This kind of potential seems to have exceeded that of the S class. This talent was even greater than that Witch in the academy.

Watching the silent tent, Xiao Yan bitterly smiled and shook his head. The information that Xun Er had reported was also beyond his expectations. He had originally predicted that Xun Er's strength would be around that of a five star Dou Zhe. He had never expected that this girl would be so terrifying. Her potential had actually exceeded the S class; even he was slightly shocked at this kind of bizarre training speed.

Within the tent, Xiao Yu was also totally stunned upon hearing Xun Er's words. In their clan's home, she had never witnessed Xun Er fight, so she was uncertain of her exact strength. Additionally, no one had ever told her about Xun Er's secret identity. In her eyes, Xun Er was just a member of the younger generation in the Xiao Clan who was blessed with great talent. She had never expected that her talent would actually be this great.

"...The Witch in the academy will finally meet her match." Xiao Yu suddenly muttered as she laughed bitterly and shook her head.

At the corner of the tent, Luo Bo and Ge La stared at the green-clad young lady with their faces filled with terror. Recalling their previous attempt at making things difficult, cold perspiration immediately appeared. In their hearts, they silently rejoiced. Luckily, they had not really offended the little beauty just now.

As the pair rejoiced, however, they did not know that from the moment they provoked Xiao Yan, they had already left the worst possible impression in Xun Er's heart.

The silence in the tent continued for a long while before everyone slowly began to recover. They exchanged glances with each other, their hearts palpitating slightly.

“Tsk tsk, I did not expect that I would actually meet a new student whose potential exceeds S class. Ke ke, it seems I really have good luck.” The shock on her face slowly receded as Teacher Ruo Lin’s glowing eyes stared at Xun Er. A moment later, she abruptly smiled, “This time around, the most outstanding new student in Jia Nan Academy is undoubtedly Xun Er.”

Hearing Teacher Ruo Lin’s evaluation, Xun Er smiled but, contrary to expectations, she shook her head.

“Uh...” Being stunned by Xun Er’s action, Ruo Lin uncertainly blinked her eyes and hesitatingly asked in a disbelieving voice, “Is there someone more outstanding than you?”

“Yes, Teacher Ruo Lin.” Xun Er crisply nodded her head. Her limpid eyes formed a moon like smile, looking extremely cute. “Compared to him, Xun Er is nothing great.”

“Eh?” Teacher Ruo Lin’s eyebrows twitched without leaving any trace. A sixteen year old six star Dou Zhe. This was actually nothing in that person’s eyes? Teacher Ruo Lin shook her head. Although deep within her heart she did not believe this. she still asked, somewhat curious, “Who is he?”

Beside Xun Er, Xiao Yan felt uneasy as he heard her words. Sure enough, after Teacher Ruo Lin posed her question, Xun Er quietly tilted her beautiful face, her eyes filled with mischief as she stared at Xiao Yan.

All the gazes in the tent followed Xun Er’s line of sight, finally landing on Xiao Yan who helplessly gave up.

Seeing the person who Xun Er’s gaze had pointed out, Teacher Ruo Lin was stunned for moment as she immediately said, “Xun Er, Xiao Yan’s talent is indeed extraordinary. An A class potential would put him amongst the top one hundred of the new students in the academy. But... this is still weaker than yours.”

“Ha, correct. Xun Er junior, his talent may be quite good, but when compared to you, he still has a long way to go.” At one corner, Luo Bu sunnily laughed.

In reality, Luo Bu was not the only one with this line of thought. Within the entire tent, other than two or three people, the rest were all suspiciously looking at Xiao Yan. After all, an A class potential was indeed very strong but Xun Er’s potential which exceeded that of an S class, was outrageously stronger. When comparing the two, there was a large gap that was difficult to bridge.

Xun Er blankly stared at Luo Bu, who was full of smiles but did not bother answering him. Her coldness caused Luo Bu, who had wanted to have a closer relationship, to feel embarrassed.

Seeing the manner with which Xun Er stared at Xiao Yan, Teacher Ruo Lin pressed her eyebrows together. Her thoughtful gaze shifted to the helpless looking Xiao Yan and gently said, “Unless, Xiao Yan was concealing something?”

“Hey, Yu er, what are they trying to do? Don’t tell me it is really as Teacher has said and Xiao Yan was still concealing something?” Watching the situation in the tent, the female students beside Xiao Yu asked curiously.

Xiao Yu did not reply. She narrowed her eyebrows while the expression on her face changed. At Xun Er’s reminder, she had suddenly remembered that Xiao Yan... seemed to have a three year gap in his training. During that three years, due to some strange reason, his strength not only did not rise, it actually got weaker and weaker.

Then in this one and a half years, Xiao Yan seemed to... forcefully rise from having a three Duan Qi to become a four star Dou Zhe. If one were to break it down into different time blocks, this frightening training speed was something even Xun Er would not be able to compete with.

Recalling this information that was almost forgotten due to Xiao Yan’s strength, Xiao Yu gradually let out a cold sigh. Only now did she truly understand how terrifying that young man who usually loved to infuriate

her was.

“It cannot be considered as concealing. My situation is something that everyone in Wu Tan City would know a little about.” Being the focus of everyone’s attention, Xiao Yan was first silent before he shrugged his shoulders and smiled.

“Can you tell me about it? Allowing the academy to have a clear idea of every student’s potential will allow the academy to better help them. There is no harm done.” Lightly putting down her pen, Teacher Ruo Lin touched her cheeks and with a smile, watched the tall handsome young man. Her gentle voice made it difficult for any man to refuse her.

“Allow me to tell it. Xiao Yan ge-ge does not like to bring up the past.” Seeing the hesitation on Xiao Yan’s face, the understanding Xun Er quickly said.

“Hehe, it is just as well.” Teacher Ruo Ning nodded her head. The gaze she gave Xun Er was a searching one. With Ruo Lin’s experience, she had naturally discovered some clues from the way Xun Er constantly attempted to protect Xiao Yan.

From the manner Xun Er was acting, it was obvious that she was trying to brag to everyone about something that she was most proud of. No one was allowed to tarnish this thing that she was meticulously protecting.

“This guy seems to have very good luck with women.” Teacher Ruo Lin laughed in her heart as she lazily threw a glance at Xiao Yan.

Having reached this stage, Xiao Yan had little choice but to nod his head.

Seeing Xiao Yan nodding his head, Xun Er smiled sweetly. She knitted her eyebrows and arranged her memories before she slowly began, “Xiao Yan ge-ge started training Dou Qi at the age of four.”

Listening to the first sentence, Teacher Ruo Lin nodded her head. Starting to train Dou Qi at the age of four was considered neither early nor late.

“He reached nine Duan Qi at the age of ten.”

The soft voice that Xun Er continued with caused all those in the tent to be shocked. The early stages of training Dou Zhi Li were very tough. This was something recognised by everyone. Usually, if one started Dou Qi training at the age of four, even with better than average talent, one should be around fifteen year old before he could reach nine Duan Qi. For those who are more outstanding, they may be able to achieve this at the age of thirteen or fourteen. Reaching nine Duan Qi at ten was a frightening speed.

“At eleven, he was promoted to a Dou Zhe.” After listening to this point, the gaze that everyone gave Xiao Yan turned slightly strange. An eleven-year-old Dou Zhe... This was something that no one in Jia Nan Academy could compete with.

Following Xun Er’s words, Teacher Ruo Lin eyes grew brighter and brighter as she sat on the leader’s chair. Her beautiful eyes were filled with radiance.

“Uh.. next...” At this point, Xun Er pursed her lips and said softly, “From twelve to fifteen, Xiao Yan ge-ge was demoted from a Dou Zhe to someone with three Duan Qi.”

“Uh...” Hearing this, the numerous side conversations in the tent died down. The face of most people petrified.

“Demoted to three Duan Qi?”

These words that seemed to have come from some fantasy novel caused Teacher Ruo Lin’s beautiful face to register a stunned expression. This ever-changing situation gave her the feeling that she was listening to a tale.

Teacher Ruo Lin covered her red red lips. It was a long while later when she finally recovered from the strange situation. Immediately, she hurriedly asked, “What happened next?”

“Next, Xiao Yan ge-ge, who was unable to train for three years, once again recovered his frightening and incredible talent. After he was fifteen, he managed to rise from having three Duan Qi to a four star Dou Zhe within one and a half years.” Pouting her small mouth, Xun Er said with a

smile, “So, Xiao Yan ge-ge’s current strength is the result of his one and a half years of training while my strength is the result of sixteen years of training. You can easily tell the stronger one from the weaker one.”

“Hum...”

As Xun Er’s words died down, everyone in the tent once again took in a cold breath. Each and every gaze that was directed at Xiao Yan was filled with shock in the face of his terrifying talent.

In a corner, Luo Bu and Ge La forcefully swallowed their saliva. They looked at each other, finding fear and horror in each other’s eyes.

Teacher Ruo Lin shrunk her eyes and gradually sighed. She slowly opened her beautiful eyes and stared at the young man. In a gentle voice, she said, “Unexpectedly, you are the most frightening of all, you silent boy. Had Xun Er not said anything this time, you would have really escaped unnoticed.”

Chapter 102: Requesting for Leave

Eyeing Teacher Ruo Lin who was staring at him with a fake smile plastered across her face, Xiao Yan could not help but spread out his hands before feigning an evil and firm glance at Xun Er who had covered her mouth to hide her laughter.

“Hehe, let this conclude today’s registration; we will still be spending another seven days here. Congratulations to all the new students who have passed today; from now on you will be a member of Jia Nan Academy. I hope that all the students will finish their preparations within seven days, after which the Jia Nan Academy’s flying envoy will arrive at Wu Tan City and we will be able to fly directly to the academy.” Teacher Ruo Lin rolled up the sheepskin scroll in her hand as she softly laughed.

At these words, the faces of all the people in the tent lit up with happiness.

Xiao Yan gazed at the slightly smiling Teacher Ruo Lin as he took a step forward and made a dry smile, “Teacher Ruo Lin, I still have something else.....”

“Oh? Xiao Yan, the little genius, what else do you have to discuss with teacher?” Teacher Ruo Lin lifted her pretty and charming face as she answered in a teasing tone.

The awkward nickname caused Xiao Yan to let out an embarrassed smile as he shook his head and probed, “Umm..... I’m thinking if I could possibly not follow you all to Jia Nan Academy because I still have an important thing I need to do. Teacher Ruo Lin, is it possible for me to request for some leave?”

“Request for leave?” Slightly stunned, Teacher Ruo Lin knitted her brows together before softly replying, “According to the rules, besides some designated days,, new students have no leaves during the school year.”

“But I have a truly important matter.” Xiao Yan shrugged his shoulders and added in a solemn voice, “Extremely important, to the extent that I have no choice but to go.”

Right beside him, Xun Er's delicate face turned a shade darker at Xiao Yan's words, her hands started to fiddle with her hair. She had originally thought that her journey to Jia Nan Academy would be in high spirits but now her enthusiasm suddenly waned.

"Requesting for leave?" Likewise, Xiao Yu was shocked at Xiao Yan's words. She stared at Xiao Yan, unable to make heads or tails of the situation.

As Teacher Ruo Lin looked at Xiao Yan's solemn face, her brows knitted together. A while later she finally gently nodded and softly said, "Okay then. How long a break do you need, if it is not too long I could possibly help you with the authority I have."

Xiao Yan looked into Ruo Lin's gentle eyes and suddenly felt his face flush. After a moment of silence, he awkwardly answered, "Probably..... about a year."

Once these words left his mouth, the entire tent was suddenly quiet. One by one, astonished gazes rapidly turned towards the youth who was smiling awkwardly. About one year? At this moment, every person thought that there was a problem with their hearing. Even though they had seen requests for leave before..... requesting for a year's leave just after registering..... this was the first time this had happened since the founding of Jia Nan Academy.

"Yu-er. This guy from your clan..... is way too overbearing right? One year? Does he intentionally not want to go to Jia Nan Academy?" Xue Ni stared at Xiao Yan, dumbstruck, as she rapidly shot questions at Xiao Yu in a startled voice.

Xiao Yu laughed bitterly as she shook her head, she too did not understand where Xiao Yan was coming from.

"..... Are you joking with me?" Teacher Ruo Lin blinked her long eyelashes as she did not know whether to laugh or cry at Xiao Yan's words. Requesting for a year of leave? This was almost a third of the total time spent in the academy.

Xiao Yan helplessly shook his head and said, "I am seriously discussing

this matter with teacher.”

With her black brows tightly knitted together, Teacher Ruo Lin looked at Xiao Yan’s face, even though there was a look of helplessness on it, she could not find even a tiny shred of that he was joking. Teacher Ruo Lin sighed as she shook her head before softly saying, “This leave is too long, I do not have the authority to approve it. You should just forgo it, judging by your potential, you will definitely get the best kind of training from the academy. Why would you waste your time by taking leave instead?”

Hearing Teacher Ruo Lin’s advice, Xiao Yan let out a bitter laugh, “This is already the most conservative estimate.”

Teacher Ruo Lin’s empty hand massaged her bright and clean forehead, as she had anticipated, this little bastard had already brought her such a difficult headache; inducing problems even before officially becoming her student. Looks like he had the potential to become a pain in the a** student.

“The leave is too long.....” Once again shaking her head, Ruo Lin sighed, her words already held implications that she would reject it.

“If I am unable to take a year of leave, I think that I will have to withdraw. If I have a chance next year, I will once again participate in Jia Nan Academy’s enrollment.” Xiao Yan pursed his lips and said grudgingly in a soft voice.

“Withdraw?” Hearing these words from Xiao Yan, a disturbance started in the tent. To one side, Xiao Yu stamped her feet in worry.

Seeing that Xiao Yan was using withdrawing as a threat, there was finally a slight change in Teacher Ruo Lin’s gentle expression. She hated to part with a talented student that she had just recruited. After staring closely at that stubborn youngster, a moment later, her gentle voice said, “Xiao Yan, can you not make this hard for teacher? The leave that you request for is way too long.”

Mixed with a trace of beseechment, the combination of Teacher Ruo Lin’s gentle voice together with her sweet face pulled at men’s heartstrings; most men were practically unable to reject her. Many of the

male students within the tent were already involuntarily nodding their heads after hearing her words. It was only when they finally regained their senses did they flush red with embarrassment.

Under the attack of this delicate beauty, Xiao Yan's heart was likewise beating rapidly, yet his self control was far stronger than that of a normal person. Slowly spitting out a breath, under everyone's gaze, he shook his head and earnestly said, "Teacher Ruo Lin, I need this one year of leave! Nothing can change that."

Teacher Ruo Lin eyed the youngster who had replied with extreme resolution, once again feeling a headache, her empty hand lightly massaged her bright and clean forehead again. A moment later, finally a little enraged by Xiao Yan's stubbornness, she suddenly sat up and while gritting her teeth. She quickly walked forward until she stopped in front of Xiao Yan, angrily saying to his face, "You little bastard, can't you take my feelings into account? What good does asking for such a long leave have for you?"

"Ehhh....." Watching Teacher Ruo Lin, who had unexpectedly been angered by Xiao Yan, everyone's faces were filled with shock, after which they could only helplessly shake their heads.

"This bastard could even infuriate a dead person to life, meeting him is really Teacher's bad luck." Xiao Yu recalled the times when she had been angered by Xiao Yan until she stamped her feet in fury; as a fellow victim she empathized with Teacher Ruo Lin's feelings.

As Xiao Yan looked at Teacher Ruo Lin who was right in front of him, her pretty face twisted with anger, he could only laugh awkwardly. He definitely had some anger inducing skills to be able cause the gentle natured teacher to lose herself to this extent, yet, he would go to any lengths to obtain the leave today.....

Deeply breathing in the flowery fragrance from Teacher Ruo Lin's body while stoically glancing at the other party's exquisite and ample figure, Xiao Yan forcefully suppressed the excitement in his heart. With an unwavering gaze, he said: "Teacher, I have my own difficulties, please

approve of my request, else..... I can only withdraw from the enrollment.”

“You dare!” Ruo Lin had gone through great difficulty to find what can be rated as a demon level student, how could she so easily let him go, her almond eyes immediately widened as she shouted out.

Xiao Yan shrugged his shoulders, declining to comment.

As Ruo Lin looked towards Xiao Yan’s couldn’t care less appearance, she realised that she had somewhat lost her self control, her charming face slightly blushed as she took a step back. A long long silence later, her beautiful eyes slightly slanted as she said in a dull voice: “Do you really plan to request for a year of leave regardless of anything?”

At Xiao Yan saw how Teacher Ruo Lin suddenly calm demeanor, his heart slightly tightened, staring back into her beautiful eyes, he found a trace of danger in them.

This sight of Teacher Ruo Lin caused Xiao Yu and others who had lived with her for over a year to have a sense of foreboding. The Teacher Ruo Lin at this instance was undoubtedly in a dangerous mode.

Although Xiao Yan had already sensed the signs of danger, at this time, even if he were faced with a mountain of daggers and a sea of flames, he could only brace himself. Swallowing a mouthful of saliva, he immediately gave a dry smile and nodded his head.

At Xiao Yan’s nod, Teacher Ruo Lin slowly sighed.

Heavily nodding her head, Teacher Ruo Lin’s thin fingers combed through her fine black hair as she coolly said: “Alright then, requesting for leave is not impossible.”

Hearing these words, Xiao Yan was not a least bit excited, rather he knew that there was a catch.

As Teacher Ruo Lin eyed the calm and collected Xiao Yan, her eyebrows arced up in amazement. Evidently, Xiao Yan’s self control had by far exceeded her expectations.

Lethargically glancing at Xiao Yan, Teacher Ruo Lin suddenly sent him a

tender smile, but her soft and gentle voice caused everyone else to look to Xiao Yan in pity.

“If you can survive 20 rounds with teacher, the problems that will come up with your year of leave will be settled by teacher!”

At these words from Teacher Ruo Lin, Xue Ni and the other female students sighed on behalf of Xiao Yan. Shortly after, they looked towards Xiao Yu who was trying hard to force a smile with sympathy and consoled: “Yu-er, don’t be too sad.”

“This arrogant bastard.” Xiao Yu gritted her teeth as she fiercely stamped the ground. However within her eyes, a trace of worry could be seen.

“What now? Do you still want to request for leave?” Teacher Ruo Lin tenderly said while she smiled and gazed towards Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan’s lips split open as he scratched his head, in his pitch-black eyes, a trace of ridicule could almost be seen. Appearing to mutter to himself for a long while, Xiao Yan finally firmly nodded his head under everyone’s gazes.

“Of course!”

At these words, the smile on Teacher Ruo Lin’s turned even more beautiful and soul wrenching while..... also more dangerous.

Chapter 103: First Fight with a Da Dou Shi

Listening to Xiao Yan agreeing with Teacher Ruo Lin's condition, everyone threw him a "respectful" gaze.

Although Xiao Yan was extremely gifted, the huge gap between him and Teacher Ruo Lin was very difficult to overcome. The difference between a Dou Zhe and Da Dou Shi was not something that one could make up through one's talent.

Xiao Yu was also stunned by Xiao Yan's response. A moment later, she helplessly sighed. It seemed that this guy would not turn back until he hit a wall.

"This place is a little small. Let's go outside."

Smiling at Xiao Yan, Teacher Ruo Lin led them out of the tent. In the blink of an eye, her voluminous and exquisite figure released a mature and attractive loveliness.

Xiao Yan rubbed his nose, nodded and followed. After a brief hesitation, everyone in the tent also came rushing out.

The sun was already setting. Its last pale red light covered the plaza with a layer of red carpet. The rocks and ground were also beginning to cool after being baked under the sun for an entire day. Standing in the middle of the plaza, one could occasionally catch a glimpse of the much smaller crowd outside.

A fresh and cool wind blew across the middle of the plaza, providing comfort to Xiao Yu and the others who had just exited the tent.

Under the gaze of numerous people, Xiao Yan walked to the middle of the field and stood with a smile opposite of Teacher Ruo Lin. In a dry voice he said, "I hope that Teacher will be merciful."

Hearing this, the corner of Teacher Ruo Lin's mouth curled into a gentle smile. She slowly raised her empty white hand. The green storage ring on her finger flashed and a long blue whip appeared.

The entire length of the long whip was dark blue. On top of it there was

a rich amount of energy oscillating. At the grip of the long whip, was a carefully sculpted serpent's mouth with a deeply embedded magical stone that was as big as a baby's fist. Along the long whip were inscriptions of Dou Qi symbols that emitted a faint glow.

Just by looking at the molding of the long whip, anyone would know that the item in Teacher Ruo Lin's hand was a magic core weapon that had been meticulously made. Eying the gentle aura of the weapon, it was obvious that the weapon's attribute was similar to that of Teacher Ruo Lin. By using this weapon to fight, the latter's strength would be boosted by at least one or two levels.

TL: Magic Cores are the cores of Magic Beasts

Faced with Xiao Yan's dry smile, Teacher Ruo Lin directly used her actions to prove: There was no chance that you will get a one year leave from me.

Watching the beautiful lady with the long whip and standing prettily before him, Xiao Yan pulled at the corner of his mouth and shook his head.

"Hey, just choose a weapon to use."

Waving her hand, Teacher Ruo Lin withdrew a steel sword from within her storage ring. Her finger lightly flicked, turning the sword into a black shadow which quickly flew toward Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan did not move as he eyed the metal sword flying toward him at a frightening speed, allowing it to sweep towards him with great strength.

When the metal sword was about half a meter from Xiao Yan, it suddenly stopped and dropped, inserting itself into the gap of a black rock.

Shrugging his shoulders, Xiao Yan extracted the metal sword and slashed it about without any order. He had never learnt any Sword Dou Techniques, so he was quite unfamiliar with a sword.

Xiao Yan's calmness caused Teacher Ruo Lin to raise her dark eyebrow. Her beautiful eyes were full of praise. With this kind of mental strength at such a young age and adding his natural talent, Teacher Ruo Lin had a

premonition that this person was likely to become very very strong...

“Shall we start?”

Teacher Ruo Lin’s long whip struck the ground in front of Xiao Yan. The water energy within it immediately left droplets of water on the rock floor. She slowly raised her head and asked with a smile.

“Um.”

Xiao Yan slowly nodded his head, his face becoming more serious. This was the first battle with a Da Dou Shi. Although he had Yao Lao’s secret help, directly confronting such a strong person was giving Xiao Yan quite a bit of pressure.

Watching the stage where the fight was about to take place, Xiao Yu could not help but tighten her hand in anxiety. The worry on her face was difficult to hide.

“Ha, what a presumptuous person. Daring to fight with the Teacher Ruo Lin, a five star Da Dou Shi by relying on his little talent, what an arrogant person.” Eyeing Xiao Yu’s worried manner, Luo Bu, who had originally restrained himself after witnessing Xiao Yan’s talent, was overcome by jealousy and once again ridiculed him.

“What did you say?” Hearing those words, the formerly worried Xiao Yu promptly straightened her eyebrows, angrily turned around and demanding.

“I’m only speaking the truth.”

The anger that Xiao Yu displayed had little effect other than increasing Luo Bu’s jealousy.

“What right do you have to criticise him? Do you even dare to fight with a Da Dou Shi? All you know how to do is to show that hypocritical smile of yours. But when you meet something troublesome, you are the first to hide. I feel most disgusted by this kind of two-faced man. Even if I die, I will never like you.”

Xiao Yu’s face was utterly cold as she spoke chillingly. Her merciless and

disdainful words caused those around them to be stunned. Having known her for so long, they had never seen her speak in such a manner.

Luo Bu's face alternated between black and white for a moment before he shifted his twitching eyes away and stared at the young man on the battlefield. An obscured poisonous hatred flashed in his eyes.

The sarcasm and cold voice outside the battlefield did not affect the intense atmosphere within. Xiao Yan was intently staring at Teacher Ruo Lin, his body repeatedly shuddered slightly. He knew that an attack by a Da Dou Shi would far exceed the speed, strength and experience that his usual opponents' had. Hence, he could only focus all his attention and stare at every single minute movement of the other party and attempt to predict her next attack.

Briefly glancing at the readiness Xiao Yan displayed, Teacher Ruo Lin gave a brief smile and waved her hand. Like a snake leaving its hole, the long whip left a faint blue line in the air before striking straight down onto Xiao Yan.

As the long whip passed through midair, moisture was added to the cool air.

Seeing the long whip which had crossed a distance of over ten meters, Xiao Yan's eyes narrowed and he slowly let out a breath. Just as it was about to hit head, he suddenly shifted his body slightly to the left.

The long whip along with its breaking wind, came lashing down along the side of Xiao Yan's clothes and finally landing heavily on the rock ground. a huge water stain quickly appeared on the ground.

After dodging Teacher Ruo Lin's attack, Xiao Yan's face appeared imposing as he stepped heavily off the ground. He compressed his body, then shot toward Teacher Ruo Lin like an arrow that had left a bow.

The short ten meters was a distance that could be covered in the blink of an eye. As Xiao Yan was about to enter his attacking distance, however, a great force came charging from his back.

Xiao Yan's face changed and he suddenly threw himself flat on the

ground. A blue colored shadow glided closely to the back of his head before continuing on horizontally.

With his body prone on the ground, Xiao Yan struck his hand fiercely on the ground. A strong yellow shapeless force heavily hit the ground. Immediately, the counterforce pushed Xiao Yan's body into the air.

In midair, Xiao Yan rapidly rotated his body. The metal sword in his hand borrowed the momentum from his rotation and, after thrown, shot toward Teacher Ruo Lin.

The metal sword lacerated the air. Its black figure carried a sharp strength much like lighting.

Staring indifferently at the metal sword penetrating through the wind, Teacher Ruo Lin lightly flicked her hand. The long blue whip she held returned towards her and mystically entangled itself in the air to form a blue wall.

“Ding!” As the metal sword and the blue wall came into contact, a clear clashing sound was immediately released. The great shock from the contact broke the sword into numerous pieces.

Watching the sword that had broken into more than ten pieces, Teacher Ruo Lin raised her moist red small mouth and was about to launch her attack when her face changed.

The ten plus broken pieces, in midair, were suddenly picked up by a shapeless force and flew toward where Xiao Yan was.

The small metal pieces pierced through the air and swept toward Xiao Yan. The sharp breaking wind was much stronger than the metal sword that was swung and thrown earlier.

After the ten plus metal pieces flew half the journey, a ferocious pushing force suddenly erupted from Xiao Yan's palm. At Xiao Yan's strike, even the dirt on the ground was scattered throughout the air.

“Xiu xiu xiu!”

The ferocious pushing force easily overcame the energy of the small

metal pieces. After which, these ten plus metal pieces suddenly changed direction. With much more aggressive speed and strength, they headed towards Teacher Ruo Lin like bolts of lightning.

“This little boy certainly has some ability.” Seeing how Xiao Yan could use just the strength of a Dou Zhe to attract and repel objects over space, an act that required the strength of a Da Dou Shi, Teacher Ruo Lin let out a surprised praise. Her empty hand swiftly formed a palm in front of her. The Dou Qi in her followed fixed Qi paths and started revolving rapidly.

“Weakening Water Mirror!”

Following Teacher Ruo Lin’s voice, a huge piece of pale blue Dou Qi spewed out from her palm, forming a round blue water mirror in front of her.

“Weakening Water Mirror” was a defensive Dou Skill that could only be mastered by those who practiced water type Dou Qi. It was not a very high level skill, only High Huang. However it was very practical. In the Dou Qi continent, many strong people who were well versed in water type Dou Qi could use their strong Dou Qi to create this strange water mirror that had the ability to reduce the strength of an attack.

The water mirror which was over half a meter thick, emitted both blue and red lights under the setting sun.

“Puff, puff...” The ten plus metal pieces that were piercing through the wind made contact with the water mirror and instantly penetrated it. However, after entering the mirror’s interior, each piece’s strength was eliminated by the torrent of water.

“Dang...” Having lost the force behind it, the pieces of metal weakly fell onto the stone floor with a desperate clang as they left the water mirror.

Chapter 104: Forcefully Resisting Middle

Xuan Dou Skill: Water Python

After watching the lightning fast exchanges on the battlefield, the surrounding audience gazed at Xiao Yan in surprise. They did not expect that this guy, in the face of a strong Da Dou Shi, would dare take the initiative and launch his own attack.

Although the attack did not achieve much effect, Xiao Yan was not too disheartened by it. He understood that had he not relied on “Vacuum Hand” and “Fire Palm”’s brilliant combination, he would have been defeated by an attack by the ghost like long whip. As Xiao Yan did not have a leveraging point in midair, his body began to quickly descend. When his body was about two or three meters from the ground, however, the blue long whip nestled up on the ground suddenly stood up like a venomous serpent and twirled towards Xiao Yan.

Curling up his palm, Xiao Yan aimed at the ground and sucked, allowing his descending body to suddenly land on the ground.

Once again, Xiao Yan borrowed the strength of “Vacuum Palm” to escape unharmed. Just as Xiao Yan feet touched the ground, he forcefully stepped off it and once again rushed forward. Finally, he was able to reach the attack range where he was at his best.

Xiao Yan was not good at using any weapons, preferring to use his body to fight. In the instance of a close range attack, the fist, head, elbow, leg... every part of the body could be turned into a lethal weapon. As long as he had sufficient speed, he could release a storm like rapid attack in an extremely short time.

As he approached Teacher Ruo Lin, Xiao Yan’s face became impassive. His fist, elbow and leg swiftly and ferociously struck but each time, his attack was easily deflected.

“Heart Breaking Palm!”

“Rock Splitting Kick!”

“Heavy Elbow Strike!”

Finally getting a chance to launch rapid attacks after much effort, Xiao Yan displayed nearly all of the Dou Techniques that he had learnt. However, he gained nothing from these attacks.

According to Xiao Yan’s perception, the Teacher Ruo Lin in front of him seemed to have covered her body with a layer of cream like film. Each time he landed an attack on her body, his body part would strangely slide aside; his efforts seemingly fruitless.

During another attack, Xiao Yan’s gaze happened to coincide with Teacher Ruo Lin’s eyes. His entire body shook slightly as he discovered a mocking gaze in those pair of eyes.

Raising his alertness, Xiao Yan’s legs were about to move when he suddenly realised that there was a sticky force on his leg, pasting it to the ground and preventing him from moving.

The sudden unexpected change caused Xiao Yan’s eyes to narrow. Lifting his eyes, he caught a glimpse of Teacher Ruo Lin’s half smiling face. With his body unable to move, he tightened his fist instead. Using all of the Dou Qi remaining in him, he aimed at Teacher Ruo Lin and threw a heavy punch.

“Octane Blast!”

Following the explosive scream in Xiao Yan’s heart, the veins on his fist jumped up. A pale yellow Dou Qi encompassed his fist. Finally, the fist carried a sharp breaking wind as it murderously struck at Teacher Ruo Lin.

The sudden strengthening of Xiao Yan’s attack caused surprise to flash across Teacher Ruo Lin’s eyes. She rotated her hand, generating a compact water energy cyclone on her palm before making contact with Xiao Yan’s fist.

“Bang!”

A thunder like sound exploded on the empty plaza, causing the audience to repeatedly throw sidelong glances at one another.

The fist and the palm were in contact for a brief moment before Teacher Ruo Lin took a few steps back. Her face was full of smiles as she said, "It seems that you will not be getting your leave."

Only after his body violently shook a couple of times did the white faced Xiao Yan manage to dissipate the shock from the exchange. He lowered his head and glanced at his legs, only to realize that he had unknowingly stepped into a water trap created by the long blue whip.

"No wonder she did not retaliate when I was attacking. She was trying to lure me to step into the trap that she had set..." Thinking back to the previous scene, Xiao Yan finally understood Teacher Ruo Lin's motive. She was trying to think of a method to counter the lightning like dodging speed he was so proud of.

"This woman is no lightweight..." Xiao Yan used all his strength and attempted to lift his leg. However, with Xiao Yan's current strength, how could he escape a trap that a Da Dou Shi had meticulously set up?

"Haha, Xiao Yan. Everything will be over. This is the last round!"

With a smile at Xiao Yan's irregular expression, Teacher Ruo Lin laughed. She extended a white hand and compelled the blue long whip to coil around her arm.

Teacher Ruo Lin's palm tightly held the huge serpent's mouth at the whip's handle. Then she lifted her lips and suddenly spewed a strong ferocious dark blue Dou Qi into the long whip.

The enormous blue colored energy continuously churned in the sky, much like a water fountain. After a second, the churning energy had agglomerated into a giant water serpent about three to four meters long. The water serpent faced the sky and let out a soundless roar. Large drops of water dripped from its body, drenching the entire field.

After the roar, the water snake, under the control of Teacher Ruo Lin, displayed a frightening power as it pounced on the immobile Xiao Yan in an overwhelming manner.

Eyeing the giant water serpent rotating in midair, all those who were

watching let out a surprised cry.

“Middle Xuan Dou Skill: Water Python?”

“Oh god, Teacher Ruo Lin even used this technique? It seems that Xiao Yan is in for some pain.” Xue Ni exclaimed in surprise as she shook her head. She immediately threw a sympathetic gaze at the immobile Xiao Yan.

“Teacher is trying to show this guy who’s the boss. With his unruly character, even teacher Ruo Lin would have difficulty disciplining him in the future, unless of course, he is given a good fright.” Xiao Yu helplessly sighed. At a glance, she could see Teacher Ruo Lin’s intention.

Although Teacher Ruo Lin had used a Middle Xuan Technique, Xiao Yu was not too worried. She knew that Teacher Ruo Lin would not really harm Xiao Yan. Otherwise, given her strength, her “Water Python” Technique would not have so little power.

Back at the academy, Xiao Yu was fortunate to have witnessed Teacher Ruo Lin use “Water Python” with her full strength. The water serpent produced by the Dou Qi was seven or eight meters long, far exceeding what this smaller version.

Coldly watching as Xiao Yan fell into deep trouble, the corner of Luo Bu’s mouth lifted in a gloating icy grin. In his heart, he viciously cursed Xiao Yan to meet his end under Teacher Ruo Lin’s attack.

On the battlefield, the giant water serpent dived down onto Xiao Yan. The enormous wind pressure tightly pressed Xiao Yan’s clothes to his body.

The tremendous force from above him caused Xiao Yan to helplessly sigh. The strength of a Da Dou Shi was indeed frightening. The current Ruo Lin had not even used half of her strength while he had already exhausted himself.

Gradually lifting his head, Xiao Yan faced the giant water serpent which appeared somewhat sinister under the afterglow of the setting sun. He closed his eyes and he bitterly laughed as he whispered, “Oh. Yao Lao, do

it. A Da Dou Shi is not someone I can fight against with my current strength.”

“Haha. Little boy. You finally understand your current strength. In the eyes of a true strong person you are actually nothing. You have only took a single step on the road to becoming strong.” A bland, aged voice sounded within Xiao Yan’s heart.

“...is indeed very strong.”

Xiao Yan nodded and tightened his fist. His narrowed gaze passed through the transparent water snake and stared at the smiling gentle beauty standing a distance away. “But I believe that I will be much stronger than her in the future.”

“Boom!”

The giant serpent was finally just above Xiao Yan’s head. Finally, it ferociously exploded onto Xiao Yan’s body. The ground trembled and water sprayed high into the sky.

Watching the location where a curtain of water had almost concealed everything from sight, Teacher Ruo Lin smiled. Considering the strength that she had used, this attack should be sufficient to barely knock Xiao Yan out.

“Yu-Er, please carry him out. Soaking in the water for too long is not good for the” Teacher Ruo Lin tilted her head and said to Xiao Yu. Before she could finish her sentence, however, her face abruptly changed. She gradually turned her head back and stared intently at the water filled field with her pair of pretty eyes. A faint fog penetrated throughout the small plaza. Light footsteps could be heard from inside the mist as a young man’s tall figure slowly walked out. Finally, he paused in the middle of the plaza and observed Teacher Ruo Lin’s astonished face. The young man rubbed his head and laughed, “Teacher Ruo Lin, I’m sorry. It seems that you cannot run away from this one year leave...”

Seeing the smiling face of the young man standing under the mist, everyone’s face registered a great shock.

Eyeing Xiao Yan whose clothes were not even the least bit wet despite standing under the curtain of water, the shock on Teacher Ruo Lin's face slowly receded. After observing the smiling young man once again, she gently said, "Little boy seems to have some ability. I seem to have underestimated you."

"Ha Ha, I was only lucky. Had Teacher Ruo Lin used her full strength, I would not have been able to hold out for three rounds." Xiao Yan said as he shook his head.

"If I had to use my full strength against a new student who is a four star Dou Zhe, how would I continue to survive at the academy?" Hearing his words, Teacher Ruo Lin threw Xiao Yan a disdainful look and said in a displeased voice.

"Since you have met my condition, I will grant you this one year leave. Uh..." Teacher Ruo Lin lightly sighed and shook her head as she said helplessly. It was clear that even after Xiao Yan had met her condition, she was still unwilling to approve the one year long leave.

"Ha ha. Thank you for your help, Teacher Ruo Lin." Hearing her approval, Xiao Yan, in his heart heaved a great sigh of relief. On his face, there was a glut of happiness.

"Eh, other people anxiously wish to spend more time at the academy, but you, little freak, want to take such a long break? You really know how to give people a headache. After returning to the academy, I will be busy settling your leave problem for quite a while." Teacher Ruo Lin smiled bitterly as she watch Xiao Yan's excited manner.

Xiao Yan gave an embarrassed smile but he remained silent. Regarding such matters, he did not want to say more than what was necessary.

"Alright, let's end today's recruitment. For the next seven days, we will continue to be in the city recruiting new students." Seeing that Xiao Yan had no intention of explaining himself, Teacher Ruo Lin could only helplessly shake her head and return her long whip as she gently spoke.

Xiao Yan nodded. At that moment, the burden in his chest was completely lifted. Now that most of the matters in Wu Tang City were

settled, he would only require another two or three days of preparation before he could reassuringly leave with Yao Lao to train.

“Teacher, during the time you spend in Wu Tang City, why don’t you come to the Xiao Clan to stay?” Eyeing Teacher Ruo Lin who was about to turn around to leave, Xiao Yu hurried forward and pulled her hand as she said with a smile.

“Go to the Xiao Clan?”

Slightly stunned, Teacher Ruo Lin pressed her eyebrows and asked with hesitation, “The Jia Nan Academy already has a special reception area in Wu Tang City. And going to the Xiao Clan’s home, won’t it be a bother?”

“Haha. It is not a problem. It is our clan’s honor to be able to invite a teacher from Jia Nan Academy. I think that everyone in the Xiao Clan would be more than happy to have Teacher Ruo Lin as a guest.” Xiao Yan said as he slowly stepped forward.

Being a renowned academy in the Dou Qi continent, Jia Nan Academy’s influence in Jia Ma empire was extremely great. If one were to compare the strength and ability, even the Primer Auction House was a far cry from them.

As an extremely strong power, Jia Nan Academy adopted a condescending attitude to the small local forces in Wu Tan City. Because of this attitude, the recruitment party over the years had little interaction with the different forces in Wu Tan City, much less accepting an invitation to stay at a clan’s home.

Under such circumstances, the various forces in the city also knew their limits. They understood the gap between them. Can the weak expect the strong to be polite towards them?

With such a mindset present, none of the various forces in Wu Tan City were crazy enough to have their good intentions snubbed. Hence, when it came to the recruitment party from Jia Nan Academy, they had kept a respectful attitude from afar. They neither dared to offend nor did they thicken their skin and try to form a relationship lest they end up becoming a mockery.

After living in Wu Tang City for over ten years, Xiao Yan naturally understood just what kind of aloof force the Jia Nan Academy recruitment party was. If he could let Teacher Ruo Lin stay in the Xiao Clan's home, it would once again significantly raise the influence of the Xiao Clan in Wu Tan City to the extent that it may not be weaker than the Primer Auction house.

With Teacher Ruo Lin's special status, as long as she expressed a favorable impression of any force, regardless of how small they were, that party would experience an unending stream of visitors the next day.

Putting it in this manner may be exaggerating, but when all was said and done, Teacher Ruo Lin held the power to decide who could enter the Jia Nan Academy. For those who were anxious to send their children into the academy, they would not give up even the slightest bit of chance to do so.

Thus, as long as Teacher Ruo Lin accepted Xiao Yu's invitation and stayed at the Xiao Clan's home, every force in Wu Tan City would express more goodwill towards the Xiao Clan for this very reason. After having raked in huge profits from the sale of healing medicine some time ago, having Teacher Ruo Lin show her favor towards the Xiao Clan would beautifully conclude any problems caused during the Xiao Clan's recent rapid expansion.

Just by temporarily staying for a couple of days would give the Xiao Clan have numerous advantages. It was of little wonder why Xiao Yan would recommend it.

Listening to Xiao Yu's invitation, Teacher Ruo Lin pressed her small moist red mouth together. With her experience, she would naturally understand what kind of influence her status had within Wu Tan City. Based on common sense, the recruitment teachers in the previous years would usually ignore these invitations from forces in the city.

However, now that Xiao Yan had personally given an invitation, Teacher Ruo Lin found it difficult to reject him. Faced with this person who was known as the student with the most monstrous potential in the last hundred years of Jia Nan Academy, she would not carelessly ignore his

words. Otherwise, if this little guy decided to get angry and run away, she would have a very difficult time finding another student who was as outstanding as him.

Teacher Ruo Lin pressed her eyebrows together and muttered to herself for a moment before she finally nodded and said with a smile, "Alright. I'll be in the care of the Xiao Clan for the next few days."

Seeing Teacher Ruo Lin nodding her head and agreeing, Xiao Yu immediately lifted her smiling face and hugged the formers soft and gentle waist.

"Luo Bu, you should return with Ge La and the others to the reception area, Tomorrow, we will be continuing here. Take note. Do not cause any trouble!" Patting Xiao Yu's head dotingly, Teacher Ruo Lin tilted her head towards Luo Bu and ordered.

"Um."

With a dry face, Luo Bu nodded his head, staring at the back of a group of girls who were laughing with loveliness and playfully fighting with one another as they gradually moved further away. Luo Bu could only helplessly shake his head. Without an invitation from Xiao Yu, none of them had the face to forcefully follow. Thus, the group of male students could only downheartedly pack up without the company of any beauties before weakly walking towards the exterior of the plaza.

Chapter 105: Before Leaving

Upon hearing the news that the instructor responsible for Jia Nan Academy's student recruitment had arrived, Xiao Zhan and the three elders, who were having a discussion in the Meeting Room, were all stunned. A moment later, they stood up with their faces full of happiness. After exchanging a glance with each other, they immediately hurried out of the hall towards the clan's front door and invited the group of pretty girls into the clan.

Under Xiao Yan's introduction, the two parties began to get to know one another. Once Xiao Zhan found out that Instructor Ruo Lin and group had the intention of staying over, he agreed without any hesitation and immediately ordered people to prepare the empty rooms in the backyard. His decisive move left a favorable impression on Instructor Ruo Lin and her students.

With the addition of a group of beautiful and gifted students from Jia Nan Academy, the atmosphere of the clan became much more lively. Many young male clan members congregated around, their eyes continuously sweeping over the group of beautiful girls. At the same time, they threw envious glances at Xiao Yan who was surrounded by the girls who were unceasingly questioning him.

Nightfall slowly descended upon them and as the host, the Xiao Clan provided the best lodging. After dinner, Xiao Yan found an excuse to quietly return to his room after seeing that both parties were having quite a few friendly conversations. He laid his tired body on the soft bed. The battle with Instructor Ruo Lin today, in spite of Yao Lao's help towards the end, had exhausted him...

The morning sunlight came shining through the window, lighting up the entire room. On his bed, the young man, with a pair of hazy eyes, sat up. After staring blankly for a moment, Xiao Yan finally got down from his bed as he yawned and washed his face in a simple manner.

"Yao Lao. When are we leaving?" After drying his face, Xiao Yan

randomly asked.

“Let’s go out to prepare some things later. Freshwater, food, a tent, insect repellent, low grade medicinal ingredients, healing medicine and medicine to recover one’s energy are all essential things needed for your training. After all, we may be spending a long period of time living deep in the mountains.” The transparent Yao Lao appeared next to the table and lightly said.

“Ha ha, I look forward to it.” Xiao Yan smiled as he quickly pulled clothes over his body.

Seeing Xiao Yan’s eager manner, Yao Lao raised his eyebrows and said softly, “Since you were born, you have not experienced any life and death battles. A person’s potential can only burst out when his life is threatened. With the kind of tepid training that you do, you will never be able to become someone truly strong. You do not lack talent, what you lack is the experience of real battles.” Carelessly playing with the tea cup in his hand, Yao Lao glanced at Xiao Yan, whose speed of putting on his clothes had slowed and casually said, “Only after experiencing bloodshed will you truly undergo a change.”

Xiao Yan slowly tightened his fist as he raised his face and smiled at Yao Lao. “I believe I will be able to overcome it.”

“It’s good to have confidence.” Yao Lao, who was extremely satisfied with Xiao Yan’s confidence, smiled and nodded his head.

“Ha ha. But, teacher...The Di class Dou Technique that you mentioned the last time... when are you going to teach me?” Xiao Yan laughed as he stepped forward and asked. He had been looking forward to the Di class Dou Technique for a long time.

TL: Huang < Xuan < Di < Tian

Glancing at the smiling Xiao Yan, a teasing expression appeared on Yao Lao’s face, “Relax. Since I have said that I will teach you, I will not go back on my words. Wait until we leave Wu Tan City, hehe... be prepared to slowly learn from me.”

Watching Yao Lao's manner, Xiao Yan's heart suddenly felt uneasy. He let out two bursts of dry laughter but did not continue the meaningless conversation. After putting everything into his breast pocket, he opened the door and left.

At that time, Instructor Ruo Lin and the others had once more rushed to the plaza from yesterday and began recruitment. The clan's home had once again become much emptier.

After taking a few small turns, Xiao Yan swaggered out of the front door of his clan's home. Watching the scene outside, he suddenly became stunned.

The wide road outside the front entrance was already packed with carriages. On these gorgeously adorned carriages, there were many crests. From these crest, Xiao Yan could recognise that most of belonged to fairly strong forces in Wu Tan City.

"Tsk tsk. They have heard of the news pretty quickly..." Xiao Yan shook his head and sighed in surprised. Once again, Xiao Yan appreciated the enormous influence of the Jia Nan Academy student recruitment party in Wu Tan City.

After letting his gaze drift randomly, Xiao Yan finally retrieved it. He ignored these people as he widened his footsteps and walked straight ahead.

Walking along the road that had become lively because of Jia Nan Academy's student recruitment, Xiao Yan slowly strolled towards the auction house in the middle of the city. As he was about to approach his destination, he patiently pulled the large black cloak over him just as he did many times before. Only then did he reassuringly walk into the auction house, which was even more crowded than usual.

Ya Fei elegantly sat on a chair with her right leg crossed over her left, revealing an attractive whiteness below her long dress.

At that moment, Ya Fei was holding a long scroll of paper in her hand. It took her a long while before she finally finished going through the list of ingredients. A surprised expression appeared on her enchanting face.

Raising her head, she eyed the black cloaked man beside her and asked in a surprised voice, “Xiao Yan di-di, why did you list so many things that are needed to survive outdoors? Don’t tell me you are planning to go on a journey?”

“Hum. I will be leaving Wu Tan City in the next few days. Perhaps... it may be a year or two before I return.” Xiao Yan said as he lightly sipped his tea.

“One or two years?”

Ya Fei was stunned after hearing those words as she asked, “Why do you need so long? What do you intend to do?”

“Haha I’m already an adult so I wish to go out and gain some experience. I do not wish to be bottled up in this small Wu Tan City...” Xiao Yan smiled faintly.

“Ah, with your talent, staying in Wu Tan City may hinder your ability to become really strong.” Ya Fei said softly as she inclined her head.

“That mysterious Alchemist will also be leaving with you, won’t he?” Ya Fei asked after a brief silence.

“Yes, he’s my teacher.”

“No wonder...” Ya Fei suddenly nodded her head and stared deeply at Xiao Yan. She speculated, “Then... you can also be considered an Alchemist, right?”

“The healing medicine of the Xiao Clan was refined by me.” Xiao Yan replied with a smile and didn’t hold anything back.

“Hehe. Uncle Gu Ni managed to find some clues from the level of refinement of the ‘Blood Clotting Powder’. The only reason why he hasn’t guessed that it was you is because he does not know the relationship between you and the alchemist.” Ya Fei simply nodded calmly at Xiao Yan’s words, without displaying much surprise. It was obvious that she had already guessed some of the truth.

“Please help me prepare all the items and deduct the costs from my card.

Don't reject me. I do not want to owe any favors before I leave." Xiao Yan took out a pale golden card from his breast pocket and handed it to Ya Fei. The card contained over four hundred thousand gold coins which was his share of the profits from the Xiao Clan's sale of healing medicine.

"Alright."

Feeling somewhat helpless, Ya Fei nodded and received the card. She waved for a female servant and handed both the card and the paper scroll over, ordering the servant to quickly see to it.

"After I leave, I hope that the Primer Auction House would take care of the Xiao Clan. In the future, if Ya Fei Jie has anything that she needs help with, I will definitely not put it off." Xiao Yan said smiled as he raised his head and looked at the glamorous woman in front of him who could be called a stunner.

"Hehe, since you have already addressed me as Ya Fei jie, how could I reject you? Anyway, I would do anything to try to get into the good graces of an alchemist with limitless potential, even if it costs me my life." Xiao Yan's manner of addressing her, which was filled with significantly more sincerity, caused Ya Fei's beautiful long narrow eyes to curl into an attractive angle. Her hand held her fragrant cheeks as she stared at the corner of the young man's face unhidden by the black cloak while she blinked her eyes in a wavering manner. A faint enchanting allure surfaced on her bewitchingly mature face.

A numbing sound that was filled with temptation caused Xiao Yan's heart to tremor. Immediately, he shook his head. This woman was a natural stunner that was designed to seduce men. Had this been a private place void of people and had he been another man with weaker control, he would have been overwhelmed by lust and forcefully have her on the ground.

"Ke ke, I will stop teasing you." The slightly hurried breath under the black cloak caused Ya Fei's moist red lips to curl into a triumphant smile. She loved causing this overtly calm young man to reveal a shyness that someone of his age ought to have in front of her.

“Xiao Yan di-di, I look forward to seeing what kind strength you will achieved when you once again return to Wu Tan City.” Ya Fei said softly as her charming smile faded from her face.

“I am also looking forward to it.”

With a smile, Xiao Yan raised his head and eyed the female servant hurrying towards him from beyond the curtain. He gradually sat up, waved his hand and said, “I’m leaving. This is likely the last time that I will be here before I leave.”

Gracefully standing up, Ya Fei prettily stood in front of Xiao Yan as she watched this young man whom she had gotten along with for the last one to two years. Although most of their relationship was calculated by business, Ya Fei had another kind of love for this slightly younger indifferent looking young man. This love was not that of a man and a woman. Instead, it was somewhat like the feeling between a brother and sister.

Reaching out her hand, Ya Fei patted Xiao Yan’s shoulders. A slight sadness appeared in her vivid eyes. “Take care.”

Raising his eyes, Xiao Yan fixed his eyes on this famous beauty that few in Wu Tan City did not know of. He suddenly smiled, stepped forward and reached out his hand and lightly grabbed Ya Fei’s snake like curvy waist that was filled with temptation.

As Xiao Yan’s hand hugged this perfect waist that an uncountable number of men in Wu Tan City had drooled over, he could feel that her body had stiffened. Only a long while later did it start to return to its original softness.

Ya Fei froze on the spot. Being bid farewell by Xiao Yan in such a special manner had caused her face to turn slightly red. However, she was lucky that Xiao Yan did not make the next move, otherwise, she would have really thought that the lust of this little boy had swelled.

“Take care, Ya Fei jie. I know that your identity is not merely that of a chief auctioneer but I would like to seriously tell you something.” Placing his chin on Ya Fei shoulders, Xiao Yan deeply sniffed her faint body scent.

The corner of his mouth rose teasingly, “In the future, you should never allow another man to hug you in this manner. Because other than me, other men would be thinking of how to take you to bed when they hug you.”

Hearing this, Ya Fei was startled. Immediately, an attractive blush covered her face as she scolded, “Little boy, how dare you mock me? I think that you are the one who thinks like this!”

“Ha ha,” Heartily letting out two laughs, Xiao Yan ceased clinging on the softness in his hands and withdrew his hands without the slightest reluctance. After waving at Ya Fei, he turned and headed out.

“Goodbye, Ya Fei jie. See you in a year’s time.”

Softly laughing, Xiao Yan walked to the door where the female servant, who was totally shocked at witnessing Xiao Yan’s intimate acts with Ya Fei, stood. Smiling, he picked up his golden card and two small storage rings from the silver plate. After saying his thanks, he walked out of the auction house without a backward glance.

Only after seeing Xiao Yan’s back gradually disappearing around a corner did the redness on Ya Fei’s face gradually disappear. She stroked the spot on her waist which Xiao Yan had held, feeling a faint lingering warmth, an unusual feeling that caused the strength in Ya Fei’s legs to falter.

“A boy that’s allots his desires. But, I really anticipate the day of your return. I really don’t want to lose such a good business partner. Also...I am really curious to see just how high you will have gotten when you return.”

Chapter 106: Departure

Xiao Yan walked out of the auction house to stand at the crowded crossroads of the street. He gazed upon the city he had known for more than ten years for a long while before letting out a lonely sigh. As he tightly clenched his fist, as if to boost his morale, he softly said to himself: "The outside world will definitely be more exciting..." Xiao Yan smiled as he threw off the last bit of depression in his heart and walking forward step by step, he disappeared into the crowd.

After preparing all the supplies, Xiao Yan decided to relax and quietly enjoyed a peaceful routine for the remaining two days. Understanding Xiao Yan's mood, Yao Lao did not say anything to disturb him and allowed Xiao Yan to plan his days.

The perceptive Xun Er was able to sense something from the tranquillity of Xiao Yan during these two days, thus the little lass accompanied him whenever she had time; her lively eyes were filled with reluctance and yearning.

Faced with this tag along, Xiao Yan felt somewhat helpless. The only thing he could do was softly console Xun Er when they were alone together which improved her mood by a bit.

As Xiao Yan walked on a small path in the clan, he lazily stretched his back. Today was the day that he would leave, in fact he had just seen his father to inform him about his plans.

Although Xiao Zhan was extremely reluctant at the news of Xiao Yan leaving, he clearly knew that Xiao Yan could not be confined to the tiny Wu Tan City and given his talent, only in the endless skies of the outside world would he be able to soar to his heart's content.

When an eagle chick grows up, it will soar in the skies!

"Yan-er, in the future, if you have a chance to, you can go to the Stone Desert City just outside of the Jia Ma Empire to look around. Your first and second elder brothers have already established themselves there. In these past few years, they founded a mercenary group called 'Desert Steel',

which has become a considerable force in that area.”

As Xiao Yan thought back to what his father had told him in the study, a small smile appeared on his face. After going through the Coming of Age Ceremony, his two brothers left home to experience the world and at that time, father was not the clan leader. In the recent years, probably due to the fact that it was a long journey back or because they were busy with their mercenary group, they seldom returned to Wu Tan City. Yet Xiao Yan still remembered the brotherly ties they had when they were younger.

“Xiao Yan.” The gentle and soft voice of a woman caused Xiao Yan to stop mid step as he was making a turn on the path. Lifting his head to look at the beautiful lady by the roadside, he could not help but smile and ask, “Instructor Ruo Lin, shouldn’t you be at the enrollment tent?”

“I came back to take some things. Currently, Xun Er is taking over for me.” With a light smile, Instructor Ruo Lin slowly stepped forward as her gaze swept over Xiao Yan before softly inquiring: “Planning to leave?”

“Yeah.” Xiao Yan rubbed his nose as he nodded.

“Have you informed Yu-Er and Xun-Er?”

“It’s alright. Else they become emotional when we part, it is better to quietly leave.” Shrugging his shoulders, Xiao Yan smiled.

“It might be easy for you, but others might be saddened by this.” Instructor Ruo Lin gave a stare of rebuke to Xiao Yan before lapsing into silence for a moment. Soon after, she tenderly said: “I hope a year later, I will hear news of someone clashing with the Misty Cloud Faction.”

Slightly shocked, Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. After having stayed in the clan for a few days, there would be a few loud mouths who would talk about the situation between Nalan Yanran and himself, thus Xiao Yan did not inquire on how she knew.

“Actually, I am really interested to know, when she finds out how much strength you have now, what kind of expression she will have?” A mischievous smile suddenly appeared on Instructor Ruo Lin’s face.

Spreading out his hands, Xiao Yan continued to converse with Instructor

Ruo Lin for a while before leaving. Under her attentive gaze, he slowly faded away at the end of the pathway as he walked away.

Xiao Yan followed along the small path and entered his room. From under the pillow, he retrieved three Storage Rings. Wearing one of the dark red rings on his finger, he carefully placed the other two in his bosom. Although the three rings were all of a low grade, they were still priceless objects. While travelling outside, one should not blatantly show one's wealth; Xiao Yan clearly understood this principle.

The things that Xiao Yan brought with him were very simple, all of his stuff was stored in the rings. As he stood at the door, Xiao Yan gazed upon the now empty room and let out a dull laugh which was accompanied by the soft creaking sound of the closing door. From between the cracks of the door, the final ray of sunlight gradually disappeared.....

Xiao Yan's departure did not disturb anyone. A youth clothed in common garb walked out the main entrance with empty hands before slowly disappearing at the end of the street under the respectful gazes of the clan guards. Perhaps these guards did not know that when he left this time, it would be a year before he would return home.

Xun Er's mind was not at ease; on the young maiden's brow, melancholy could be seen. Anyone could tell from her distracted eyes that her heart was not in it today.

"Junior Xun Er, have some water."

A gentle male voice sounded out beside Xun Er. A handsome young man was currently smiling as he held a cup of fresh water in his hands.

Her train of thoughts derailed, Xun Er lifted her head to gaze upon the handsome young man beside her. This young man was the strongest among the current enrollment team, even Luo Bu was much weaker than him. Furthermore this person did not have the phony smiling expression of Luo Bu which could be easily seen through. When Xun Er chatted with the other female students, she found that many of the girls in the team had a favorable impression of this young man who was not only strong but also dashing and gentle.

However, although the young lad's smile was gentle and inoffensive, it could not catch much of Xun Er's attention. She glanced at him before dully shaking her head, "No need. Thank you."

Xun Er's cold attitude did not cause any change in the young man's expression. He shrugged his shoulders as if he did not mind at all and kept the cup of water as he lightly smiled and said, "In today's enrollment test, if it were not for junior Xun Er's help, I'm afraid we would be swamped with work, sorry for the trouble."

"Instructor Ruo Lin asked me to come and help out." Xun Er shook her head and turned as she gazed at the young lad who looked like he had more to say before softly asking, "Senior, could I have some time by myself?"

"Hehe, sorry. I often talk too much. Sorry for disturbing you." The young man's smile turned slightly sluggish. Soon after, he smiled as he nodded before turning to walk towards the tent.

"Hei hei, Lin Nan what happened? Do you have feelings for her?" As he neared the tent, a happy and teasing voice was suddenly heard.

Pausing his step, the young man who had been named as Lin Nan shot a glance towards the smiling expression on Luo Bu. Relaxing, he leaned on a nearby tent pole and took a sip from the cup in his hands. His gaze slightly slanted as he gazed at the slender young girl under the rays of the sun. Passion danced within those eyes as he remarked, "It is very rare to see such a high class girl, there are no girls within the academy that can compare to her."

"Yet she is not interested in you." Luo Bu bantered and smiled.

"Interest needs to be nurtured, there is still time. What is the rush?" Lin Nan lightly smiled and said.

"She..... has a good relationship with the guy called Xiao Yan." Luo Bu appeared to carelessly let that comment out but he shot a glance toward the young maiden in the distance at the same time.

The swaying cup of water went slightly sluggish as Lin Nan's brows

tightly wrinkled together, “Did that guy really survive twenty rounds with Instructor Ruo Lin?”

“It is indeed true. That day you were out testing with a few others so you did not get to see but the rest of us personally witnessed Instructor Ruo Lin use ‘Water Serpent’. But that guy still managed to resist it.” Luo Bu said in a deep tone. As he remembered the fight that day, a flash of shock could not help but arc across his face.

Lin Nan tightened his grip and drained all the water in the cup in one gulp. His lips curled as he said, “Even if it is true, I will not give up because of that. That guy’s talent for training is indeed very great, however if we compare how to fawn over women, he is far from my level. Hei, in addition he is going to leave Xun Er for a year; in this year, I have a lot of time to cause the feelings Xun Er has for him to falter.....”

At this point, Lin Nan was a tad proud of himself; as an experienced player, he was confident he knew how to capture a young maiden’s heart.

“Xun Er.” At this moment, outside the plaza, Instructor Ruo Lin suddenly ran in before finally stopping before the young maiden. Gasping a few breaths, she softly said, “He left.”

Xun Er’s tiny hands slightly trembled as she momentarily lapsed into silence before slightly inclining her head.

“Xun Er, don’t be sad. This separation is not forever.” Instructor Ruo Lin sighed and consoled as she looked at the now silent Xun Er.

“Okay.” Lightly nodding her head, Xun Er suddenly stood up and under the puzzled gaze of Instructor Ruo Lin, she walked towards the duo outside the tent, Lin Nan and Luo Bu.

The young maiden slowly walked over, finally stopping right in front of the duo. Not a trace of anger could be seen on her delicate face while her lively eyes stared at Lin Nan and she softly said, “Senior, would you accompany Xun Er for a spar?”

“Eh.....” Lin Nan fell into a daze after hearing Xun Er’s request. It was long while later before he smiled and said, “Naturally I would not reject

such a request from junior Xun Er. During the bout I will suppress my power to your level.”

Xun Er blinked her long eyelashes and without a word she went straight into the tent, a calm expression on her face.

“Hey, you should be careful, her strength is that of a six star Dou Zhe.” Luo Bu reminded as he watched the young lady enter the tent.

“I have already advanced to seven stars two months ago.” With a light laugh, Lin Nan gazed at the tent, a smile on his face as he said, “Looks like this is a good start, most girls are weak in the heart at this kind of time.”

The corners of Lin Nan’s mouth slightly lifted as he brushed his clothes before entering the tent under the envious gaze of Luo Bu.

Standing outside the tent, Luo Bu waited for a few minutes before the tent flap was opened and the young lady slowly threaded out with a look of apathy on her face.

“Eh.....” Seeing that it was Xun Er who came out first, Luo Bu could not help but be shocked. Yet when he saw the look on the young lady’s face he did not dare to open his mouth to inquire.

The young lady stood outside the tent and lifted her refined face to gaze upon the setting sun. At this time the youth had probably left the city long ago right?

Xun Er’s dainty hands sifted through the black hair across her forehead. A moment later, she looked over and said softly to Luo Bu, “In the future, whoever speaks badly about Xiao Yan ge-ge will be killed by me.....”

Caught by that pair of lively and moving eyes, Luo Bu could not bring himself to smile, rather all he could do was feel a chill emerge from within his heart.

Withdrawing her gaze, Xun Er slowly walked out of the plaza.

Instructor Ruo Lin and Luo Bu waited for Xun Er to leave before rushing to open the tent, only to both be shocked.

Within the tent, Lin Nan lay withered on the floor, his originally

handsome face was beaten black and blue. On the floor next to his body, ten bloodied teeth were scattered about, an extremely brutal sight.....

Chapter 107: Misty Cloud Faction

The Misty Cloud Faction was one of the top forces in the Jia Ma Empire. Its headquarters was built on top of a majestic mountain, located only slightly over five kilometers from the capital of the Jia Ma Empire. The mountain, because of the faction's name, became known as the Misty Cloud Mountain.

Misty Cloud Mountain was a most precipitous place. Three of its sides were cliffs and there was only one road that led to the Mountain's summit: a dangerous place which was easy to defend, but hard to lay siege to. Moreover, the faction's disciples tightly patrolled the mountain, making the entire mountain a small fortress.

The Jia Ma Empire installed a garrison manned by 50,000 horsemen, located just one kilometer from the foot of the Misty Cloud Mountain in the name of defending the capital. However, everyone could see that this was a move by the leader of the empire to guard against this ferocious tiger that was close to the capital.

The mountain summit at the back of Misty Cloud Mountain was shouldered by cloud and fog, appearing much like paradise.

On a black rock jutting from the edge of the mountain cliff a white clad young lady meditated: she was training with her eyes closed, breathing in and out in a perfect cycle. In the time between each cycle, the thick energy in the surrounding air would release a pale green air-steam, which would spiral around the lady's body before being continuously absorbed into the body, undergoing refinement, storage...

After the final tread of green air-flow was absorbed into the lady's body, she slowly opened her eyes with an arc of green flashing across it. Her shoulder length black hair was lifted by the wind and floated in the air.

"Nalan senior, mister Nalan Su has arrived at the Misty Cloud Faction. He says he wishes to see you." Seeing that the young lady had finally left her training mode, a female servant, who had been waiting for a long time, hurriedly, but respectfully asked.

“Father? Why is he here?”

Having heard the servant, the lady, as she gracefully rose, furrowed her brow and shook her head with suspicion. As she stood at the cliff's edge, the wind brushed past, pressing her clothes against her exquisite and lovely form: presenting her in the form of a goddess.

After lazily sweeping her gaze towards the seemingly bottomless space below the cliff, the lady's hand lightly brushed her moon white dress before she spun around and left the training ground that was specially reserved for her.

Nearby, in a spacious and bright large hall, a somewhat gloomy looking middle-aged man was sipping at his tea cup. His other hand was steadily knocking on the table's surface in an irritated manner.

Nalan Su was extremely fidgety and on edge after his father, Nalan Jie, had almost used a pole to beat him up to the Misty Cloud Faction.

He did not expect that the year in which he led troops to garrison at the western side of the empire, his audacious daughter would dare to privately end the engagement that his father had arranged.

There was no one in the Nalan clan who did not know that Nalan Jie was extremely concerned about his reputation. Nalan Yanran's actions would undoubtedly cause others to say that the Nalan family had no honor. All the more, because she refused to be united through marriage in Xiao Clan in Xiao Yan's weakness.

This kind of gossip had caused Nalan Jie to fly into a daily rage at home. Was it not for the fact that he was paralysed, he would have dragged his dying body and climbed the Misty Cloud Mountain himself.

Truthfully, regarding the marriage between the Nalan Clan and the Xiao Clan, Nalan Su was also not that supportive either. After all, the Xiao Yan then was almost like the spokesperson for the label 'Cripple'. Having him allow his daughter, with her great beauty and talent, to marry a useless person was something that he was unwilling to do.

However, the past is in the past. According to the latest news, that little

boy from the Xiao Clan had not only gotten rid of the 'Cripple' label, but had also demonstrated a training speed that was even more frightening than when he was young.

The potential that Xiao Yan was currently displaying was something that could capture Nalan Su's attention. However, Nalan Yanran's independent action had resulted in an extremely icy relationship between the two clans and caused great embarrassment to Nalan Su.

If such a relationship was to be prolonged, it might result in him not only losing a son-in-law with incredible potential but might also result in the latter harboring hatred towards the Nalan Clan.

Just thinking about having a person with the potential to become a Dou Huang that looked at the Nalan Clan with enmity was something that both frightened and angered Nalan Su.

"This girl. Her rebelliousness is growing stronger and stronger..."

The more he thought about it, the angrier he became. The tea cup in Nalan Su's hand suddenly landed heavily on the table, splashing tea all over it. Beside him, the female servant who was waiting on him received a shock. She quickly but carefully replaced the cup.

"You should have informed Yan-er before coming to the Misty Cloud Faction."

TL: Yan er – referring to herself

Just when Nalan Su was extremely angry, a clear female voice suddenly sounded from the large hall. A moon white figure came strolling out from under a curtain as she sweetly spoke with a smile.

"Hmph. Do you still see me as your father? I thought that after becoming a disciple of the Yun Yun, you had forgotten all about the Nalan Clan!" Seeing the growing charm of his daughter, Nalan Su's anger was slightly abated as he coldly barked.

Eyeing the awful expression on Nalan Su's face, Nalan Yanran helplessly nodded her head. She waved her hand at the female servant beside her father, ordering her to leave.

“Father, you have not seen me for over a year and yet you start lecturing me the moment we meet. The next time I return home, I will definitely tell Mother about this!” After waiting for the female servant to leave, Nalan Yanran immediately lifted her nose and sat beside Nalan Su as she hummed like a spoilt child.

“Return home? You still dare to return home?” Hearing her words, the corner of Nalan Su’s mouth cracked, “If you dare to return home, we will see whether your grandfather will break your leg or not.”

Pressing her lips together, Nalan Yanran, who was well aware of the situation, clearly understood the meaning of Nalan Su’s words.

“You should be aware of my motive for being here, no?” After fiercely drinking a mouthful of tea, Nalan Su said with a icy expression.

“It is regarding the breaking off of my engagement, right?” Nalan Yanran’s delicate hand played with her long hair as she faintly said.

Seeing Nalan Yanran’s calm manner, Nalan Su instantly became extremely furious. His palm slammed heavily on the table as he scolded, “The marriage was something that your grandfather had personally promised back then. Who told you to cancel it?”

“That is my marriage. I don’t want to follow your wishes and marry whoever you pick. I will make my own decision in all my business. Regardless of who made the promise, all I know is that if I follow the agreement, the one who will marry is me, not Grandfather!” Bringing up the matter had caused Nalan Yanran’s face to show displeasure. As an independent person, she hated it when she had to follow the directions of another in regards to the important matters in her life, even if this person was her elder.

“Don’t you think that I am ignorant. This is nothing more than you feeling that the useless person that Xiao Yan was then was not good enough for you. But his current potential is now no longer lower than yours. With your position in the Misty Cloud Clan, you should have received news on the elevation of his strength.” Nalan Su said angrily.

Nalan Yanran ceased her eyebrows. In her mind, she recalled the young

man filled with stubbornness back then. Pausing her red lips, she said indifferently, "I have indeed heard some news about him. I did not expect that he could actually get rid of the title 'Cripple'. This has surprised me."

"Surprised? One word 'surprised' and it's alright? Your grandfather has spoken, ordering you to find time to go to Wu Tan City. It would be best if we apologized and smoothened out the stiff relationship." Nalan Su creased his eyebrows and said.

"Apologize? No way!"

Hearing this, Nalan Yanran's eyebrow abruptly shot up. Rejecting without the slightest hesitation, she coldly said, "Although that Xiao Yan is no longer useless, I, Nalan Yanran, will still not marry him! Don't even mention of going to apologize. If you like, you can go by yourself. In any case, I will not go to Wu Tan City again."

"You don't have any room to say no. This mess was caused by you, so you must go and clear it up for me!" Seeing that Nalan Yanran actually rebuffed him, Nalan Su suddenly became terribly furious.

"I won't go!"

With a cold face, Nalan Yanran lifted her snow white chin; her face was carrying a fragileness that she was born with. "Isn't that Xiao Yan very capable? Since he dared to agree to a three year challenge back then, I, Nalan Yanran, will be waiting for him to challenge me here at the Misty Cloud Faction. If I lose to him, I will be his servant and he can do as he pleases. Hmph. Otherwise, there is no way I will apologize."

"Bastard, if you lose at the end of the three year agreement and become a slave, won't you bring shame to the Nalan Clan?" Nalan Su angrily scolded.

"Who said that I will lose to him? Even if Xiao Yan has regained his talent, do you think that I will lose to him? Not only does the Misty Cloud Faction possess numerous high level Qi Methods, they also have an even greater number of high level Dou Techniques. Additionally, I even have the Pill King Gu He Ye-ye helping me make medicine. All of these things are out of his reach as the young master of a small clan. Putting it bluntly,

just finding a high level Dou Technique or Qi Method may take him many decades!” After being looked down upon by Na La Su, Nalan Yanran was like a cat whose tail had been stepped on. What she hated the most was for others to say that she could not be compared to the cripple she had looked down upon.

TL: Ye-ye – Elder that’s male and close to the person calling ye-ye

Seeing his daughter making a din in front of him, Nalan Su was incensed with rage. He abruptly stood up and raised his hand, preparing to give Nalan Yanran a slap.

“Brother Nalan, please do not be reckless.” Eyeing Nalan Su’s action, a white figure hurriedly swept into the hall and stood defensively in front of Nalan Yanran.

“Ge Ye, you bastard. I was told that you were the one who accompanied her the last time she went to the Xiao Clan.” Seeing the person blocking him, Nalan Su grew even more furious as he scolded furiously.

With an embarrassed smile, Ge Ya bitterly said, “This was the faction leader’s decision. Even I can’t do anything about it.”

“What is Yun Yun up to? She actually let Yanran do these foolish things? If she were to lose to Xiao Yan after three years, won’t she have to become someone’s slave?” Hearing the two words ‘faction leader’, Nalan Su’s slightly calmed down. However, his voice was still laced with anger. After all, anyone who, in the blink of an eye, lost a son-in-law with great potential and made an enemy out of the same person would not feel good.

“Ke ke, Brother Nalan, you need not worry. This matter is already done so what is the point of arguing over it? And even if you get Yanran to apologize, it would still be difficult to repair the relationship between the two clans, so why do you want to go and get insulted? As for the three year promise, you need not worry about it. The faction leader has personally left the mountain to prepare the last ingredients of a medicine. Once Elder Gu He refines it, Xiao Yan will definitely not be able to catch up with Yanran in terms of training speed. As long as Yanran is merciful in the battle of the three year promise, his anger should rub off.” Ge Ya said with

a smile.

“What kind of medicine has this kind of effect?” Nalan Su asked with a frown.

“Ka ka. This, I cannot say. The recipe was something that was accidentally discovered by Elder Gu He from deep within the mountains during his training last year. It should be something that was left behind by people from the past. As for the medicinal effect, you will know when the time comes...” Ge Ya secretly said.

Seeing that Ge La was not willing to say more, Nalan Su could only wave his hand helplessly. He glanced at the stubborn faced Nalan Yanran who was hiding behind Ge Ya and helplessly stomped his feet. He irritably said, “Forget it, I can’t be bothered by you. If you get defeated and become a servant, you better not tell anyone you are from the Nalan Clan. I can’t afford to lose that much face.” After completing his sentence, he furiously exited the hall.

Observing the figure which had vanished from his sight, Ge Ya finally sighed in relief. Turning around, he saw the similar helpless look on Nalan Yanran and once again let out another sigh as he said, “I really did not expect... That little boy from the Xiao Clan has really gotten up.”

“So what...” Nalan Ya Ran, who was sitting on a chair, said unconcerned.

“Yanran, you... Are you confident that you can beat him at the three year promised battle?” After a brief hesitation, Ge Ya asked.

“Uncle Ge Ye, why is it that even you think I cannot compare with that Cri... him.” Hearing his words, Nalan Ya Ran instantly became sour as she said.

Shaking his head and laughing bitterly. Ge Ya sighed, “I keep having a feeling that there’s something strange about that guy...”

Pursing her lips together, the hand that Nalan Yanran used to lift her tea cup clenched. Her eyes stared at the pale green tea as she told coldly spoke in her heart, “I don’t believe that you can really climb over my head. There’s still one and a half years left. Let’s see how high you can climb

from a three star Dou Zhe.”

“I, Nalan Ya Ran, will be waiting for you at the Misty Cloud Faction!
Come to the promised challenge if you have the strength.”

Chapter 108: Octane Blast's Hidden Force

A lonely crescent moon hung in the pitch black night as its faint, cool, light blanketed the vast land.

Within the pitch dark forest, a weak bonfire danced gracefully, bringing threads of warm light to the quiet and dark night.

Beside the bonfire, a young man was leaning against a tree trunk and absent-mindedly prodded the fire with the fire poker in his hand.

Including today, it has already been five days since Xiao Yan left Wu Tan City. Most of the initial freshness had faded along his lonely journey. A faint feeling of homesickness instead began to slowly climb into the young man's heart.

After randomly placing another piece of firewood into the flame, causing it to once again burn brightly, Xiao Yan rested his chin on his palm and lazily said, "Teacher, where exactly are we going?"

"The Magic Beast Mountain Range," An aged voice said from within the ring on his finger.

"I thought that we could also enter the Magic Beast Mountain Range from near Wu Tan City. Why do we have to travel so far?"

"We are on the eastern side of the Magic Beast Mountain Range. By passing straight through here, we can reach Tagger Desert. That is the final destination for our training." Yao Lao said

"Passing straight through the Magic Beast Mountain Range?" The corner of Xiao Yan's mouth opened as he laughed dryly: "My current strength will only allow me handle some of the younger Magic Beasts. At the very most, I can only roam around its edge. Isn't it impossible to cut through the mountain range?"

"Only by being in a dangerous place can one's talent truly erupt." Yao Lao said indifferently, "I plan to help you advance to a Dou Shi within the Magic Beast Mountain Range."

"Uh... Then I have to stay in the Magic Beast Mountain Range

throughout my training period?" Hearing the proclamation, Xiao Yan's face immediately turned bitter.

"I estimate that it will take a year. For the remaining half a year, you need to go and train in the Tagger Desert."

"Tagger Desert?" Xiao Yan shook his head as he muttered to himself. Forget it. In any case, he had Yao Lao by his side to protect him. His teacher would not actually let him be eaten by a Magic Beast... right?

Rubbing his palm against his chin, Xiao Yan licked his lips and asked with a smile, "Teacher... what about the Di Tier Dou Technique?"

"You little rascal. Don't you feel irritated bringing it up a couple of times everyday?"

Listening to Xiao Yan repeating the same question, Yao Lao felt something between a smile and tears. He helplessly shook his head and became silent. Finally, he said: "After going into the Magic Beast Mountain Range, I will teach you the Di Tier Dou Technique. There are far too many eyes outside. If someone were to accidentally see it, there might be some trouble."

Hearing that it would be delayed by another few days. Xiao Yan despondently nodded his head.

"Look at your good for nothing manners. Don't you understand the meaning of 'Biting off more than you can chew'? Your 'Vacuum Hand' and 'Fire Palm' have indeed been trained till they have reached perfection but your 'Octane Blast' has barely even scratched the surface." Seeing the despondent Xiao Yan, Yao Lao could not help but reprove him.

"Just scratching the surface? How can that be? The last time against Jia Lie Ao, I used 'Octane Blast' and broke his arm." Hearing Yao Lao's reprimand, Xiao Yan muttered with dissatisfaction.

"Ha ha, correct. You may have broken his arm, however did not your leg become totally numb in the process? If was not for you catching Jia Lie Ao off guard, at best your fight would've ended in a draww."

Yao Lao said with a laugh, "The attack power of 'Octane Blast' is

sufficient to be compared to that of a Low Di Dou Technique. If it is trained properly, it is not difficult for your actual fighting strength to exceed someone who is stronger than you by two to three stars. But in your hands, it nearly caused a situation where both parties being injured despite your opponent being same star as you.”

Xiao Yan became mute. He tightly pressed his eyebrows together and became deep in thought. In his mind, he suddenly recalled the introduction to the ‘Octane Blast’ from the time when Yao Lao had transferred the Dou Techniqueto him.

“Octane Blast: High Xuan Tier Dou Technique is a close-combat Dou Technique that focuses on having a great number attacks. When mastered, its blast is composed of eight pulses that join together with an attack power equal to that of a Low Di Dou Technique!

“The eight different forces must be progressively accumulated during training. How many forces have you actually mastered? Ha ha. it seems that other than the force on the surface, there is not the slightest hidden force, right?” Yao Lao said blankly, “If you can secretly add a hidden force on top of the surface one, you would have been able to catch Jia Lie Ao by surprise in your battle with him back then and would not have had such a difficult time.”

“How do you train the hidden force?” His face gradually became imposing as Xiao Yan finally realized this crucial problem that he had neglected.

“When you used the ‘Octane Blast’ in the past, you had simply viciously struck out in one go, without the slightest technique. I have never brought this up before for two reasons. One is that your strength was still too weak. The other reason is that you never discovered this.”

Xiao Yan scratched his head embarrassingly. He had never really considered the hidden force problem. This was because with just the surface strength, ‘Octane Blast’ had an incredibly strong explosive force that was extremely satisfactory to him.

“Close your eyes and reach deep into your spirit.” Yao Lao ordered

quietly, causing Xiao Yan to quickly cross his legs and adopt the training posture.

Beside the bonfire, the young man slowly closed his eyes and the surroundings once again became quiet. There was only the soft crackling sound of the firewood and the low ringing sound of the insects.

After the silence had continued for a long time, Xiao Yan, who had closed his eyes, suddenly opened them. He frowned slightly as he deliberated the exchange he had with Yao Lao in his heart.

After a long silence, Xiao Yan slowly relaxed his eyebrows. He slightly nodded and tightened his fist, where a pale yellow Dou Qi gathered. A brief stillness later, his fist smashed heavily onto a huge tree trunk as he cried softly.

“Octane Blast!”

“Bang!”

A thud sound followed. On the spot where his fist had smashed into, a small hole was created along with a few crack lines spreading out from it.

“Bang!”

Not long after the previous noise died out, another lower muffled boom sounded from within the tree trunk.

“Ka...” The force that accompanied the second muffled sound was directly transferred deep into the tree trunk. A moment later, it suddenly exploded from within. The huge tree trunk, upon being damaged by this hidden force, became shaky, seemingly about to fall.

“What... What a strong hidden force.”

Watching the seemingly multiplied destructive force, Xiao Yan became totally stunned. Although this hidden force consumed a third of his Dou Qi, its effect was obviously much greater than the consumed Dou Qi.

“An ‘Octane Blast’ with the hidden force is truly worthy of being described as being a match for a Di Tier technique.” Xiao Yan sighed with shock as he slowly withdrew his fist.

“Not bad, being able to release the hidden force on your first try. However, it is obviously not smooth and it took too long for the hidden force to explode. During this time, if your opponent has keen senses, he would be able to eliminate this hidden force before it explodes.” Yao Lao sung a praise before speaking in a manner that suggested that there were small imperfections.

“Ha ha, it’s alright. This is only the first time. As long as I have more practice, I believe I will be able to control the time when the hidden force explodes.” Xiao Yan quickly threw a few fast punches. His success with the hidden force today had increased Xiao Yan’s combat ability significantly; at the same time, it gave Xiao Yan confidence and joy.

Nodding his head, Yao Lao hesitated for a moment before saying, “Although ‘Flame Mantra’ does have the strange ability of evolving, this Qi Method’s starting level is far too low. The Dou Qi within your body could only provide enough support for you to use the hidden force a few times. If you were to fight with others in the future, you must kill within one strike. This ‘Octane Blast’ is meant to be a swift thunder-like killing Dou Technique.”

“Ah.” Xiao Yan nodded seriously. He clearly understood his weakness, which was having low stamina or Dou Qi. Should he be unable to defeat his opponent before his Dou Qi was exhausted, the one who would lose would be him.

“It looks like I need to think of ways to speed up your Dou Qi training. Once we enter the Magic Beast Mountain Range, I will guide you to search for some rare medicinal plants that are needed for refining medicine. At this time, you require medicinal help on top of relying on your talent.” Yao Lao said deeply.

Xiao Yan smiled. He abruptly raised his eyebrows and said, “That Nalan Yanran might also be using this method of training.”

“Ha, so what? In all of the Jia Ma Empire, that Gu He’s alchemy skills are considered the best. However, in my eyes, he’s nothing. Competing with me in alchemy skills? In this entire Dou Qi continent, you cannot even

find five who can!" Yao Lao said blandly; the bland voice hid an arrogance and disdain.

Xiao Yan rubbed his nose, feeling slightly curious about Yao Lao's background.

"Oh right. Carry this thing. From now on, you are not allowed to put it down, even when you sleep."

Yao Lao was silent for a moment before a huge black item suddenly shot out from the old ring and crushed heavily onto the ground, sweeping up a pile of dust.

"Uh..." Xiao Yan blankly stared at the pitch black item that was as tall as him. Cold perspiration appeared on his forehead as he swallowed his saliva and said, "This...what is this for?"

"This is made of a black meteoric metal and is likely the only one in the entire continent. Not only is it very tough to break, it is also extremely heavy. Most importantly, it has a strange effect of suppressing one's Dou Qi. If you can get used to being under its suppression, when you remove it in future battles, your strength after removing it will shock everyone." Yao Lao said with a smile as he gave a belated explanation.

"And the Di Tier Dou Technique I will be teaching you in the future is related to this."

Chapter 109: Blood Lotus Essence

The scorching sun blazed as the high temperature caused the surface of the ground to crack open. When the sole stepped on the hard soil, a sudden heatwave would rush into the sole, causing travellers to drip with sweat while cursing at the awful weather.

On the wide yellow road, a youngster dressed in common clothes was sweating heavily as he struggled to walk. Every step the youngster made smashed heavily into the ground as if it was not a foot but a ton of weight, splashing forth a cloud of yellow dust.

If one were to take a closer look, one would be surprised to see that the youngster carried a humongous black broadsword on his back. Rather than saying it was a broadsword with no edge or a sharp tip, it might as well be called a giant metal ruler. At the top, it was as if it had been cut in half by a knife, revealing a horizontal smooth mirror like surface.

On the surface of the pitch-black broadsword, there were fuzzy and bizarre veined patterns. The veined patterns continued until the hilt, nearly pervading every inch of the sword. These patterns gave the ruler a special mysteriousness that overwhelmed its simple pitch-black color.

The length of the monstrous broadsword almost exceeded the youngster's height. This bizarre combination caused the occasional travellers to cast looks of curiosity towards him.

Having once again travelled a few hundred meters, the youngster finally could not take it anymore. Like a windmill, his mouth continuously gasped for air as he dragged his feet which felt like they weighed a thousand pounds towards the shade of a big tree by the roadside.

As the youngster reached the bottom of the tree, he immediately collapsed, face toward the sky. With his head planted on the cooling grass, the sweat on his forehead flowed downward like a small stream.

"Teacher, this thing..... it's too terrifying. After carrying it on my back..... the Dou Qi circulating within my body became slow and sluggish. Furthermore, isn't this god forsaken thing way too heavy? What should

have been a one day journey has already become two days, moreover we have yet to reach our destination!” Xiao Yan heavily gasped as he spit out these words, his voice was already somewhat hoarse from the over exertion.

“Hei hei. The training has already formally started, you couldn’t have expected that it was as simple as roaming about right? Since it is called tough training, you should prepare to enjoy the most hellish treatment. The cozy life in Wu Tan City is already far from your reach.” Within the ring, the sadistic and aged laughter of Yao Lao could be heard.

Hearing these words, Xiao Yan smiled bitterly and shook his head, slightly leaning to one side. From the corner of his eye, he looked at the bladeless black broadsword on his back with horror.

He did not expect that this ordinary looking object would be so frightening. Not only did it turn the rapid Dou Qi within his body sluggish, it was also disgustingly heavy such that Xiao Yan almost broke his back while using all his strength to make his Dou Qi flow.

During these two days, Xiao Yan finally tasted the true meaning of weariness.

When Xiao Yan carried this weird black broadsword on his back, his fighting strength was comparable to that of a newly advanced Dou Zhe. Although the black broadsword constrained him greatly, this constraining effect helped to ease Xiao Yan’s worries of letting his true strength be found out by others. As he was just a lone traveller journeying through unfamiliar places, it would be foolish of him to so easily reveal his true strength to others.

Lightly rubbing the Storage Ring on his finger, a light green pill appeared in the palm of his hand. This was a pretty effective Qi Recovering Pill which was able to increase one’s Dou Qi recovery rate over a short period of time.

The pill was specially refined by Yao Lao for Xiao Yan in the days before they left Wu Tan City. But the ingredients needed for this Qi Recovery Pill were extremely rare, even with the influence of Primer Auction House,

only enough ingredients for thirty pills were collected. Thus, normally Xiao Yan did not dare to use it freely, however the current situation did not allow him the luxury to be frugal.

Cautiously sweeping his gaze over the nearby road, Xiao Yan made sure that no one was around before swallowing the pill in his mouth with one gulp. He leaned against the tree as he unhurriedly waited for the pill to take effect.

Although it is said that it is best to enter the training state to bring out the highest effect from the pill after consuming it, in his current situation, Xiao Yan clearly was not in the best environment to train. The crowds that continuously passed by on the road would break his thoughts from entering into a training state.

Slowly closing his eyes, the extremely fatigued Xiao Yan was able to distinctly feel his battered muscles greedily absorb the meek essence emitted from the pill.

When the last drop of essence had been absorbed, Xiao Yan felt as if the cells of his muscles were invigorated with power and faintly stronger than before.....

Although the tough training had only started a mere two days ago, Xiao Yan had absolute confidence in defeating a six star Dou Zhe if he were to remove the heavy sword from his back!

“It seems like there is some effect?” Xiao Yan muttered to himself as he used his hand to touch his face. The corners of his mouth abruptly broke into a grin as he lazily extended an arm, feeling full of vigor, it was as if he was remade anew from the inside out.

Propping his body up from the ground, Xiao Yan patted the burdensome and strange huge-sword with mixed feelings of love and hate before once again taking a heavy step to continue his journey to the now near destination.

Before the sky gradually darkened, Xiao Yan finally arrived at a small town which was the close to the Magic Beast Mountain Range.

The small town was known as Qingshan Town, but because it was close to the Magic Beast Mountain Range, it was also known as Magic Beast Town. The majority of the people within this small town were naturally the mercenaries who spent their days feeding their blades with blood. These mercenaries would form troupes that walked hand in hand on the streets, splattering their spittle about while brazenly discussing about the women in the town, where to find the strongest liquor and which area had the most fierce Magic Beasts.....

As Xiao Yan walked on the street which was made of limestone while carrying the huge sword that looked out of place on his back, curious gazes were naturally attracted to him. However he ignored the gazes as he wiped off the sweat on his forehead while slowly following the path along the street.

Many stores dotted both sides of the street and with their favorable location, they could be said to be rather popular. Xiao Yan swept an interested gaze across the brightly lit stores before finally stopping at a rather spacious medicine ingredient store. He paused his step, muttering to himself before once again moving to enter the medicine ingredient store called "Thousand Medicine Place."

Xiao Yan did not have much interest in things like weapons or armor but he had a huge interest in the various treasured medicine ingredients. As long as he could find a precious medicine ingredient, Yao Lao would be able to refine it into various power boosting pills. Pills were the most practical for survival while travelling in the extremely dangerous Magic Beast Mountain Range.

Walking into the spacious store, Xiao Yan realized that it was brightly lit by Moonlight Stones hanging on the walls. Currently, there was a rather high volume of traffic in the store, causing the shop assistants to be extremely busy. Thus, there was no one to welcome Xiao Yan when he entered.

Even though no one welcomed him, Xiao Yan was quietly happy. His gaze slowly swept across the transparent display counters until arriving on a small jade case, slightly dazed at what he found.

“Healing Medication? Could there be an alchemist here?” Xiao Yan muttered in astonishment as he stared blankly at the written description under the small jade bottle.

Shaking his head, Xiao Yan’s gaze continued to move on but when he had seen all of the things in the display counters, he disappointedly shook his head. Although there were some middle grade medicine ingredients, they were not much use to Xiao Yan now.

Just as Xiao Yan prepared to leave empty handed, his randomly wandering gaze suddenly stopped.

Xiao Yan’s gaze pierced through the transparent display case to unwaveringly stare at a light yellow object in a corner. A long time passed before he licked his lips and nonchalantly walked towards the object, tilting his head to once again size up the light yellow object.

“Cough..... Could I trouble you to help me take out this object.”

Little by little withdrawing his greedy and excited gaze, Xiao Yan lifted his head towards a male shop assistant and said with a smile.

Having been called, the young shop assistant cast a glance towards the plainly dressed Xiao Yan before glancing at the item he requested for. After discovering that it was the most lowly graded Yellow Lotus Essence, the young shop assistant curled his lip with impatience. With a rigid face, he retrieved the item from the display case, “Yellow Lotus Essence, low level medicine ingredient, one hundred gold.”

Not caring about the shop assistant’s discriminating attitude, Xiao Yan sneered in his heart. He received what was thought to be the most lowly graded Yellow Lotus Essence and stealthily drew his fingernail gently across the surface of the ‘Yellow Lotus Essence’. A tiny bit of dark blood red color was revealed from the somewhat yellow surface. As he gazed at the virtually hidden dark red color, the corners of Xiao Yan’s eyes slightly twitched. Shortly after, trying not to reveal his intentions, he rubbed his nose while deeply inhaling the bizarre scent of blood on his finger. Immediately, an extraordinary splendor jumped up in the depths of his eyes.

“Sure enough, it is a Blood Lotus Essence!”

As Xiao Yan’s heart beat rapidly in excitement, Yao Lao’s slightly astonished voice suddenly resounded in Xiao Yan’s thoughts.

“Little brat, your luck is not bad, you actually managed to find such a rare medicinal herb!”

Chapter 110: Fairy Doctor

Blood Lotus Essence was an extremely rare high grade medicinal ingredient. This kind of medicinal ingredient usually grew together with the Yellow Lotus Essence. Its rarity and similar appearance with the Yellow Lotus Essence made it difficult for someone who was unfamiliar with them to differentiate between the two. Had Yao Lao not exclaimed when Xiao Yan first saw this item, a novice like him would never have been able to discover that this ordinary looking thing was actually a rare medicinal ingredient that he had been searching for.

Blood Lotus Essence was also one of the key ingredients in making a 'Blood Lotus Essence Pill'. When speaking of the 'Blood Lotus Essence Pill', it was also necessary to bring up the strange Qi Technique 'Flame Mantra' that Xiao Yan was practicing.

It should be known that the evolution of 'Flame Mantra' requires the consumption of a Heavenly Flame. Swallowing the Heavenly Flame, however, was not something safe. The Heavenly Flame was extremely violent and it also possessed terrifying destructive properties. Even the special metals that were renowned for its hardness, would be unable to withstand being barbecued to the high temperature of the Heavenly Flame, much less a person's body.

Thus, in order to successfully consume the Heavenly Flame into the body, refine, then absorb it, some extremely cumbersome things must be prepared.

This 'Blood Lotus Essence Pill' was the most important one amongst them.

After consuming the 'Blood Lotus Essence Pill', a strange bloody layer will be formed on the surface of a person. This bloody layer can withstand being exposed to extreme heat. Only with its help could one get close to the Heavenly Flame and search for a chance to undertake the next step.

Xiao Yan had tried looking for necessary items that Yao Lao had told him of within Wu Tan City but it was to no avail. He did not expect that

not long after reaching a new place, he would luckily find this rare Blood Lotus Essence.

Xiao Yan great mental strength allowed him to completely hide the extreme happiness in his heart and under the impatient eyes of the shop assistant, he randomly played with the Blood Lotus Essence in front of him. After being silent for awhile, he smilingly asked, "Are there any more Yellow Lotus Essence in this stop. I would like to buy in bulk."

Hearing this, the shop assistant was slightly stunned. He suspiciously swept his eyes across Xiao Yan. Although the Yellow Lotus Essence was only priced at only a hundred gold a piece, if it was bought in bulk, it would still require quite a hefty price.

After his suspicious gaze was shifted to the Space Ring on Xiao Yan finger, the misgivings on the shop assistant's face quickly disappeared and was replaced with a flattering smile, "Mister, please wait for a moment. I will immediately go and get them."

Xiao Yan nodded with a smile. He did not continue to focus his attention on the rare Blood Lotus Essence in his hand, Instead, he searched the countertop for other things, acting as though nothing had happened.

Not long after the shop assistant left, he hurriedly returned and placed the small wooden box he was carrying on the countertop. He smile and said, "Mister, there are fifty three Yellow Lotus Essences here. Are you planning to buy all of them?"

Xiao Yan smiled but did not answer. His gaze swept across the Yellow Lotus Essence in the wooden box. A moment later, disappointment flashed across his eyes; he did not find a second Blood Lotus Essence amongst the Yellow Lotus Essence.

Xiao Yan let out a disappointed sigh from his heart but maintained a smiling face. From within the box, he randomly chose over twenty pieces before placing the Blood Lotus Essence among them. Facing the shop assistant he said, "Help me pack this and calculate."

"Mister, the bill amounts to two thousand four hundred gold coins." The shop assistant announced the price after counting the number of Yellow

Lotus Essence with his sweeping gaze.

Xiao Yan nodded his head slightly and lifted his finger. He handed the pale green card containing five thousand goin coins that had appeared in his hand to the shop assistant before hurriedly storing the bunch of Yellow Lotus Essence into his storage ring. Instantly, he felt a great relief.

After a brief silence, Xiao Yan suddenly faced the shop assistant who was swiping the card and asked, "Are the Yellow Lotus Essences here from the Mystical Beast Mountain Range?"

"Hum. The Mystical Beast Mountain Range is full of medicinal herbs. Our 'Thousand Medicine House' has our own team to gather medicinal herbs. But each time we enter the Mystical Beast Mountain Range, we have to spend large amounts of money to hire mercenaries as guards." The shop assistant, having completed a transaction, happily answered as he returned the card to Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan kept his things and nodded slightly. He was preparing to leave when he noticed that there was a sudden commotion at the entrance of the medicinal shop.

"Wow, it actually is the Fairy Doctor!"

"How beautiful, tsk tsk, what a narrow waist..."

"Idiot, do you wish to die? More than half of the mercenaries in Qingshan Town have been saved by the Fairy Doctor. If someone heard you, you may well lose your tongue."

Two men standing a short distance from Xiao Yan were conversing. When one of them uttered some dirty words, his companion quickly stopped him with a quiet lecture.

"I was just speaking trash...haha, haha." Feeling the unfriendly gaze from those around him, that man slightly paled and with an embarrassed face, hurriedly escaped from the medicinal shop with his friend.

"That Fairy Doctor... Does she have such a great reputation here?" Xiao Yan was somewhat surprised by the exchange of the two men and the reaction of the mercenaries. Standing at a distance, he tilted his head and

barely caught a glimpse of female figure in a white dress through the gaps in the crowd.

Following the dispersal of the crowd, Xiao Yan finally managed to clearly see the face of the lady whom the crowd had clustered around.

The lady was wearing a pale white dress. She was not extremely beautiful but could be called an uncommon beauty. Her lightly smiling face emitted a fresh aura that was unique and greatly increased her charm.

Xiao Yan's gaze swept across the lady's body before finally landing on a narrow waist that was bound by a green belt. Seeing the narrow waist that could not fill a hug, amazement flashed across his eyes.

Amongst the ladies Xiao Yan had come to know, Xun Er was the most enchanting with her beauty and mystery that one could not find fault with. Ya Fei was a stunning, enchanting temptress and Xiao Yu had her long sexy legs which Xiao Yan's eyes could not help but stare at each time he saw them. The woman in white that was in front of him, on the other hand, was the one with the narrowest and most delicate waist.

Xiao Yan smacked his lips, feeling amazed. Beside him, the shop assistant laughed in a low voice, "The Fairy Doctor is a physician that was specially hired by our 'Thousand Medicine House'. There are many people all over Qingshan Town who like her. If the Fairy Doctor accompanied us when we go to the Mystical Beast Mountain Range to gather medicinal herbs, the mercenaries would all lower their wages to the minimum and at times, even fight amongst themselves for the available positions."

"A physician?" Hearing this, Xiao Yan was momentarily stunned and immediately asked, "Isn't she an alchemist?"

A physician could be considered as a kind of alchemist but they are much inferior when compared to the latter. After all, they cannot really refine any medicine. All they can do is to use a normal fire to mix the various medicinal ingredients together and achieve a healing effect. If compared with the medicine refined by an alchemist, such medicine is of a much lower grade. Thus all physicians desire to become an alchemist, but

many fail to do so even after spending their entire life trying. The main problem lies both with their elemental affinity and the lack of guidance.

After seeing the extent to which she was welcomed and the healing medicine on the countertop, Xiao Yan had initially thought she was an alchemist.

“If it was so easy to become an alchemist, the occupation would not have been so rare and precious.” The shop assistant said helplessly.

Xiao Yan shrugged his shoulders, too lazy to continue his enquiry. He stared at the lady in the white dress who had sat down in her seat and attended to her injured patients. He touched his chin and admitted to himself that the kind smile the Fairy Doctor displayed when she was treating the wounded was extremely touching. No wonder these usually fierce mercenaries acted like docile little sheep in front of her.

After standing at the same spot and taking another look at the beautiful picture-like scene before him, Xiao Yan walked out of this ‘Thousand Medicine House’. He walked on the street for a while before glancing at the darkening sky and randomly found an inn at the end of the street. He rented a room and went. In the room, he slightly curled his legs and let out a heavy breath. Tightly grabbing the hilt of the heavy sword on his back with his palms, he lifted it off his back with a low groan and carefully leaned it against the side of the bed.

Although Yao Lao had said that Xiao Yan cannot remove the heavy sword even when he was sleeping, the current Xiao Yan simply did not have the ability to do so. Hence, Yao Lao had allowed him to temporarily remove it while he was sleeping.

Immediately after the strange heavy sword left his body, Xiao Yan could feel that the Dou Qi in his body, like a river of water, swiftly and violently flow within his body.

Xiao Yan slowly let out a breath. All the pores on his body had suddenly opened up. The comfortable feeling caused Xiao Yan to joyfully let out a cry. This feeling of suddenly becoming strong was simply too satisfying.

Twisting his sore shoulders, Xiao Yan removed the huge bunch of Yellow

Lotus Essence that he had just bought. From within, he picked out the Blood Lotus Essence and carefully placed it into a white jade box that he had retrieved from the storage ring. As for the remaining low grade Yellow Lotus Essence, Xiao Yan simply dumped them at random into the storage ring.

“Phew... now that the Blood Lotus Essence is finally in my hand, all that I’m missing is the Ice Fire Spirit grass and a fourth rank Ice Attribute Monster Core before I can refine the ‘Blood Lotus Pill’.” Patting the jade box in his hand, Xiao Yan wiped his mouth and sighed, “It looks like I will be busy in the future. Just finding the medicinal ingredients for the ‘Blood Lotus Pill’ has already given me such a big headache. Alas... successfully consuming the ‘Heavenly Flame’ will not be an easy task.”

Xiao Yan sighed and shook his head. His sore body finally lay on the bed and he was overcome by his sleepiness...

Chapter 111: Joining a Team

The night quietly slipped by. When the sky began to brighten the next morning, the sleeping Xiao Yan opened his eyes punctually. During this period of living in the wild, he managed to accurately tune his internal clock.

After a night of deep sleep, the exhaustion that originated from deep within his body had completely vanished and was replaced by a great vigor.

From his bed, he sat up and crossed his legs, adopting the training pose before he once again closed his eyes. The early morning hours were the best time to train his Dou Qi. Moreover, Dou Qi training was like rowing a boat against the flow. If one did not advance, one would fall behind; only by persevering could one truly succeed.

Following the increasingly steady breathing of Xiao Yan, the calm air around him suddenly acted like a wave as it began to oscillate, emitting a continuous stream of Dou Qi.

After the previous day's intense training, Xiao Yan's skin was like a sponge. As long as any part of his skin came into contact with the Dou Qi around him, his numerous pores would rush to open and greedily swallow the continuous stream of Dou Qi.

While his pores were greedily swallowing the Dou Qi, most of the Dou Qi around Xiao Yan was being sucked into his body through his breath. Then, they passed through a few specially selected Qi pathes predetermined by the Qi method. It was subsequently refined and slowly deposited by Xiao Yan into a small, ever suspending, cyclone within him.

The Dou Qi training continued for over an hour. Only when the room was completely lit by the sunlight passing through the window did Xiao Yan finally stop and break his stance. A mouthful of slightly feculent breath was slowly released.

Xiao Yan's black eyes gradually opened and a pale yellow light flashed within them before subsequently disappearing into the deepest part of his

eyes.

“At this rate, I might be able to become a five star Dou Zhe in half a year’s time. Unexpectedly, this tough training is so effective.” Xiao Yan stretched lazily and upon hearing the bone cracking sound from within his body, a smile appeared on Xiao Yan’s face.

“Today, I will be entering the Magic Beast Mountain Range.”

After jumping off the bed, Xiao Yan briefly washed his face in his room before walking back to the bedside and helplessly staring at the strange black broadsword.

Bending his legs slightly, Xiao Yan let out a deep breath. His arms bent slightly and like an eagle claw, firmly grabbed the sword’s hilt. His feet stepped heavily on the ground as he called in a low voice, “Rise!”

With Xiao Yan’s Dou Qi revolving around them, the strength of his arms was sufficient to chop down a large tree. When this kind of strength was used on the huge sword, however, it was barely enough to slowly lift it off the ground.

Xiao Yan bent his back forward; his face was already red and his breath was becoming ragged. With another low cry, the huge sword was finally thrown onto his back, instantly causing his body to sink towards the ground. Luckily, Xiao Yan was prepared. He clenched his teeth and a moment later, his body slowly straightened.

“Dammit, it’s too scary...” Xiao Yan bitterly said as he wiped the cold perspiration from his forehead.

After patting his palm on the huge black sword, Xiao Yan once again opened his stride and headed out of his room. After adapting for a few days, he no longer caused the ground to tremor each time he took a step while carrying the huge sword on his back.

Within the Magic Beast Mountain Range, the Magic beasts roamed, filling the place with danger. Walking alone within it would easily attract an attack from these Magic beasts. Therefore, other than those who were very strong, most mercenaries formed groups before entering the Magic

Beast Mountain Range.

With Xiao Yan's current strength, he could at the very most handle a rank one Magic Beast. Therefore, he did not have the ability to run around within the Magic Beast Mountain Range by himself.

Of course, this was only true if he excluded Yao Lao interfering to help him.

However, Yao Lao had said on the first day of his hard training that during this training period, unless Xiao Yan's life was really threatened, he would not intervene to resolve any trouble. In other words, in the days ahead, even if Xiao Yan had Yao Lao as a trump card, he could not carelessly use it. All the trouble he faced must be resolved by himself first.

Although Xiao Yan was frustrated with this, he could only helplessly accept it. He knew that Yao Lao's action came from a fear of Xiao Yan losing his alertness and sense of danger under the former's protection.

A baby eagle who always hides under the shadow of his mother's wing will never learn what it is to truly be free. It is only through danger will one's potential burst and take to the skies.

Yao Lao did not want Xiao Yan to become a baby eagle who only knew how to hide behind another's back. Hence, he had to let Xiao Yan understand his current position.

After walking to the the end of the street, Xiao Yan arrived at the other exit out of the town. This exit led to the Magic Beast Mountain Range.

At the exit of the town, there were many mercenaries who had gathered. There were voices crying out one after another, continuously calling out to those solo mercenaries who wished to enter the Magic Beast Mountain Range.

The mercenaries in the small town were divided into three categories. The first category were mercenary companies with strict rules. There were only three such groups within the Qingshan Town and they had around a hundred members each. Most of their members had at least the strength of a Dou Zhe and the leader of each of the three groups was a strong Dou

Shi. It could be said that these groups were among the strongest forces in Qingshan Town.

The second type of category was comprised of mercenary teams that were formed at the last minute. These kind of teams would be disbanded after completing a mission. Their trust in each other as well as their ability to cooperate could not be compared to the formal mercenary company.

The third type of mercenary was comprised of the solo mercenaries. These people often had some hidden trump cards.

The currently shouting mercenaries at the entrance of the small town belonged to the second type.

Standing at one corner, Xiao Yan did not immediately join any mercenary team. Instead, he was secretly observing which group was more professional. After all, within the Magic Beast Mountain Range, any negligence could lead to their death.

Just as Xiao Yan was looking for a satisfactory team, a commotion erupted at the entrance of the small town. An excited shout echoed, "The 'Thousand Medicinal House' is planning to enter the Magic Mountain Range to gather medicinal herbs. Accompanying them will be the Fairy Doctor. There are only fifty slots. For those who are a two star Dou Zhe and above, please hurry!"

The loud cry had caused the noisy entrance into the small town to become quiet. A moment later, everyone turned to face each other. The mercenaries who thought that they met the requirements immediately rushed towards the middle aged man from the 'Thousand Medicinal House'.

Blankly staring at the sudden raving mercenaries, Xiao Yan blinked his eyes. After a moment of silence, he also rushed forward and joined the crowd.

With so many people entering the Magic Beast Mountain range as a group, a normal Magic Beast would definitely not dare to simply attack them, thus increasing their chances of surviving. As long as he could find a secluded and safe training spot during the journey, he could easily and

reassuringly leave the team.

What he had heard from the shop assistant in the 'Thousand Medicine House' yesterday was indeed true. The Fairy Doctor' name was more effective than anything in Qingshan Town. The fifty slots had caused people to fight over it. However, Xiao Yan managed to use his small body to squeeze through the gaps of the crowd and get to the front.

"There is still one more position!" The middle aged man smiled to the squeezing crowd as he waved the goat skill scroll in his hand.

"Me!" A young man said with a somewhat tender voice. He was slightly out of breath as he walked towards the middle age man.

"Huh?" Eyeing the young man in front of him who was only seventeen or eighteen, the middle aged man froze. He immediately smiled and said, "Little boy, our criteria is a two star! Dou Zhe!" The middle aged man emphasized the last four words. Obviously, he did not believe that this young man in his teens had achieved this requirement.

"Where has this child come from? To create trouble when his beard was not even grown."

"Move aside, little body. Don't waste all of our time."

Seeing that the last spot was snatched away by a young man, the surrounding mercenaries immediately scolded.

Xiao Yan ignored these rantings as he took two step forward, He stood in line with a tree which was two arms thick. His fist suddenly tightened and a pale yellow Dou Qi formed a layer over it like a curtain of light. Then, with a low cry, Xiao Yan ruthlessly smashed his fist against the tree trunk, unleashing the ferocious force on his hand.

"Ka Cha."

Following the clear noise, the thick and strong tree fell onto the ground in front of everyone's eyes, lifting the dust from the ground.

"Is this enough?"

Clapping his hands, Xiao Yan asked the stunned middle aged man.

“Keke, little boy, you do have quite a great talent. To be able to reach a two star Dou Zhe at your age, a genius.” Nodding his head in amazement, the middle aged man spoke to Xiao Yan with a smile, “Alright, this last spot is yours. The pay is five hundred gold coins and your job is to escort the ‘Thousand Medicine House’ medicine gathering team. I will pay you half of it first. The other half will be paid when we return.”

“Alright.” Xiao Yan smiled as he nodded, He was not interested in the five hundred gold coin remuneration. What he needed was for the team to help him find a safe place to train.

After seeing that the last spot was taken by this unknown little boy, the surrounding mercenaries immediately began to disperse. As they left however, they did not forget to throw Xiao Yan a curious gaze.

The great talent needed to become a two star Dou Zhe at seventeen or eighteen was something that was a rare sight within Qingshan Town!

Chapter 112: Entering the Magic Beast Mountain Range

A huge group of people were walking through the quiet forest. There were numerous pairs of alert eyes that continued to scan the dark hidden spots of the surrounding forest while hands tightly gripped the weapons at various waists, ready to handle any sudden occurrences.

As veteran mercenaries that had survived the Magic Beast Mountain Range for many years, even though many of them were cooperating with each other for the first time, they were still able to maintain a basic understanding with each other. When they briefly exchanged glances, they could recognise the signs of both safety and danger from the other party's eyes.

The huge black sword's heaviness and its strange ability to suppress Dou Qi caused Xiao Yan to have difficulty travelling. Each time his feet landed on the ground, it would sink into the soft soil. After travelling for a short distance in this manner, he had begun to pant and sweat.

Xiao Yan wiped the perspiration from his face and turned around to stare at the heavily guarded 'Thousand Medicine House' medicinal herb gathering team. After randomly sweeping his gaze over the team, his gaze finally landed on the lady in white at the center who appeared to be like a moon being crowned by the stars.

At that moment, the fragile beauty who was known as the Fairy Doctor had coincidentally straightened her back as she lightly wiped away the beads of perspiration that had gathered on her forehead. Her light gasps for air, together with her pretty face, formed a picture of tender loveliness.

Witnessing the Fairy Doctor presenting such an image, some of the surrounding mercenaries gained a reckless motivation to carry her straight to their destination. However, they knew that even if they wished to carry her, the Fairy Doctor would decline their offer with a smile.

When everyone's gaze had gathered onto the Fairy Doctor, a slightly

handsome young man who was full of smiles, moved away from the group of mercenaries. He lowered his head and said something to the Fairy Doctor.

After a brief conversation, the Fairy Doctor simply smiled and shook her head before continuing the journey on foot.

Despite being rejected by the Fairy Doctor, the young man did not show the slightest bit of anger on his face. Instead, he let out a faint smile, waved his hand as he called out, “Members of the Wolf Head Company, we are now about to enter the Magic Beast Mountain Range. Don’t screw up!”

“Yes, Young Master.”

Upon hearing the young man’s call, dozens of huge men surrounding him immediately responded in unison. The disciplined tone attracted numerous side long glances. Even the Fairy Doctor glanced backwards.

Being extremely satisfied with the response, the young man slightly smiled and hastened his footsteps to catch up with the Fairy Doctor. Walking alongside her, he enthusiastically provided her with close protection.

“Dammit. All he relies on is his father’s position as the head of the Wolf Head Mercenary Company. Does he think that he can win the Fairy Doctor’s heart just because of this?” Eyeing the young man who could get close to the Fairy Doctor and conversing with her, one of the mercenaries beside Xiao Yan immediately quibbled with a voice full of jealousy.

Xiao Yan narrowed his eyes and swept his gaze over the young man. His eyes finally landed on a badge on the latter’s chest; on it was a carving of a wolf head with a single eye.

Leaping his gaze over the young man, Xiao Yan noticed another thirty plus mercenaries with the same badge and blinked. It appeared that the group was part of the Wolf Head Company, one of the three big mercenary companies in Qingshan Town.

Seeing the extent of protection that the Wolf Head Mercenary Company

offered to the members of the medicinal herb gathering team, it was obvious that they were specially hired by the 'Thousand Medicinal House' to offer their protection. Moreover, it appeared that the trust the 'Thousand Medicinal House' placed on the Wolf Head Mercenary Company was much greater than that placed on the other mercenaries ahead. Otherwise, the Medicinal House would not have let them be their personal bodyguards.

Xiao Yan slowly withdrew his gaze. He was not interested in the young man and the Fairy Doctor. Thus, he simply shook his head and with his heavy footsteps, once again stepped towards the Magic Beast Mountain Range.

Everything was quiet outside of the Magic Beast Mountain Range. However, not long after the Company entered the Magic Beast Mountain Range, a small scale attack by the Magic Beasts was cruelly played out before Xiao Yan's eyes.

The attackers were three First Ranked Magic Beasts known as Scarlet Ice Snake. These Magic Beasts frequently appeared at the edge of the Magic Beast Mountain Range and possessed the ice attribute; within them was an ice poison. If one was not treated within half a day of being poisoned, this poison would freeze the blood within the victim's body and result in death.

The three rank one Magic Beast Scarlet Ice Snake hung on three branches. With lightning like speed, they took the mercenaries by surprise, swiftly and easily poisoning three of their members. Instantly, the three member's faces turned an icy pale. Their legs and hands became cold as they collapsed.

Realizing that they were being attacked, everyone immediately angrily struck back. A moment later, the three rank one Magic Beasts were unsurprisingly killed by the group of mercenaries. Upon finding no monster cores within their corpses, the mercenaries could only let out a slightly regretful sigh. In the wild, it was common to suffer serious injuries and be unrewarded after killing the Magic Beast. Thus, they did not hold much hope of finding anything.

After the Scarlet Ice Snakes were killed, the three mercenaries who were inflicted with the ice poison were quickly transported to the back where the medical herb gathering team was gathered in order for the Fairy Doctor to personally remove the poison from their bodies.

With the encounter from the Scarlet Ice Snakes' attack, the Mercenary Group became even more careful. Nevertheless, it was impossible to totally avoid the Magic Beasts in the Magic Beast Mountain Range, which was densely populated by the Magic Beasts.

During the next half a kilometer that the group covered, they were attacked by three waves of Magic Beasts. Luckily, the large number of mercenaries outnumbered the Magic Beasts and they managed to repel the three attacks at the expense of more mercenaries suffering light injuries.

Being part of the scouting Company at the front, Xiao Yan could not avoid participating in one of the battles. However, in a direct confrontation with a First Ranked Magic Beast, he paid the price of a numbed hand.

Seeing the cunning Magic Beast fleeing after Xiao Yan's futile attack, Xiao Yao clenched his teeth angrily. If it was not for his Dou Qi being suppressed by the huge sword, he would definitely have killed that Magic Beast.

Even though he allowed the Magic Beast to escape, the strength that Xiao Yan displayed had resulted in the surrounding mercenaries looking at him with admiration.

"Little brother, you are quite strong, To actually be able to hold your ground against a Snake Tail Leopard that is known for its strength..."

"Tsk tsk, being so strong at such a young age... I can't image how strong he'll be in the future."

"Ha ha, this guy should be the youngest two star Dou Zhe in this group, right? Looking at his strength, it seems that it's really true."

The surrounding mercenaries' cheers caused a small commotion within

the group. When the gaze of the mercenaries fell on the young man with the huge sword, their questioning glint was replaced with something else in their eyes.

In this circle, where one's strength determined one's status, as long as one exhibited a strength that surprised others, one would attain their respect. This was a simple and direct rule.

Xiao Yan simply smiled at these cheers. Within his smile, there was neither arrogance nor satisfaction. He simply followed the group and silently continued to advance towards the medicinal herb picking site.

"Everyone. We are already close to the herb picking site. After walking for so long, everyone must be tired. Please take a short rest." After traveling some distance more, a gentle and crisp female voice suddenly called out from within the quiet group.

The advancing footsteps slowly came to a stop as the entire group ceased advancing at the same time. Turning around, they faced the innocently smiling young lady and obediently nodded their heads.

After a quick discussion, over ten mercenary were scattered towards the surrounding areas to act as lookouts. The remaining people simply sat down and started recovering the strength they had consumed during the journey.

Sitting on the ground, Xiao Yan slowly released his breath. He lifted his finger, prompting a Strength Recovering Pill to appear in his hand. He swept his gaze across his surroundings then raised his head and yawned. His palm covered his mouth as he did so, transferring the pill into his mouth. He then quickly swallowed the pill without leaving any sign of him having done so.

Once the pill was in his body, its effect swiftly spread all over his body. Xiao Yan leaned against a tree and closed his eyes, allowing the medicinal effect to quickly replace the depleted Dou Qi in his body.

With the help of the 'Strength Recovering Pill', Xiao Yan managed to quickly returned to his peak form. Surrounding him, the other mercenaries were still waiting for their strength to recover.

After whispering in his heart about how good it was to have the pill, Xiao Yan stood up. He whispered to the surrounding mercenaries about going to relieve himself before slowly heading towards the densely forested area by the side.

Within the densely forested area, the light had significantly dimmed. However, this place had been scouted by the other mercenaries beforehand, so Xiao Yan was not concerned about being suddenly attacked by a Magic Beast. His gaze swept across his surroundings, searching for a suitable training spot.

Following Xiao Yan's surveyance of his surroundings, he began moving deeper into the densely forested region. After walking for a distance, the dim surroundings suddenly brightened. He lifted his head and discovered that he had exited the small densely forested area. In front of him was a precipitous cliff. The bottom of the cliff was filled with lush greenery, providing a beautiful scenery.

Xiao Yan's gaze swept across the top of the cliff before suddenly halting. He rubbed his nose as he headed towards the cliff edge where a type of vegetation with blooming white flowers stood.

This particular vegetation had pale white flowers. Among these booming pale white flowers, a crimson fruit was stealthily hidden while emitting a faint medicinal smell.

After scanning the vegetation carefully, Xiao Yan raised his eyebrows in surprise. After which, he lowered his body and extended his hand to the plant, intending to pluck it.

Just as his hand came into contact with the vegetation, a jade white hand suddenly stretched out from the other side of the cliff, targeting the same plant only to grab onto Xiao Yan's hand instead.

After the jade-like hand came into contact with Xiao Yan's hand, it idled briefly before being withdrawn in a lightning fast manner. A moment later, a pretty face appeared from the other side of the cliff and appeared before the dumbfounded face of the squatting young man with a flustered one.

Chapter 113: Cave

Staring at the pretty face that had abruptly appeared from the bottom of the cliff, Xiao Yan was shocked. However, he managed to quickly recover and upon a closer look realised that the lady was the Fairy Doctor from the medicinal herb gathering team.

On the cliff, the two gazes continued to stare at each other. presenting a strange scene.

“Can... can you pull me up?”

After staring at each other for a moment, the Fairy Doctor was first to break the awkward atmosphere with her somewhat gentle voice.

Xiao Yan blinked his eyes and nodded as though nothing had happened. He grabbed the small hand that the Fairy Doctor had extended and with a little strength, pulled her from below the cliff. Her fragile body presented a beautiful curve in midair as she lightly leaped onto the cliff's edge.

“Thank you.”

Once her feet landed on the ground, the Fairy Doctor whispered her thanks as she swiftly released Xiao Yan's hand. She covertly glanced at the edge of the cliff as her fine fingers touched the black hair on her forehead. Her gaze then swept over Xiao Yan as she said softly, “You...you are one of the mercenaries hired by the ‘Thousand Medicine House’, aren't you?”

“Yes.” Xiao Yan briefly relished the softness that was in his hands before nodding his head with a smile. After which, he shifted his gaze toward the endless green mountain that laid beyond the cliff. Although this lady was not extremely beautiful, her gentle and soft demeanor was more than sufficient to sway one's heart. Had this encounter been at a different time, Xiao Yan would have teased her. However, he did not have such an interest during his intense training session.

After hearing Xiao Yan's answer and seeing that he had no intention of leaving, the Fairy Doctor pressed her eyebrows together and allowed her eyes to roam. Finally, she pointed at the white colored plant by the cliff

and asked with a smile, “It seems that you had intended to pick this medicinal grass, do you know what it is?”

Hearing this, Xiao Yan rubbed his nose and smiled, “This should be White Orchard Fruit. A middle grade medicinal herb which usually only grows by the edge of a cliff. There are quite a lot of them. Unfortunately, they are the favorite food of a bird type Mystical Beast so they would usually be eaten once they grow and can be considered as one of the rarer ingredients among the middle grade medicinal plants. If this matured White Orchard Fruit were to be sold at a medicinal shop, it should be worth around four thousand gold coins.”

Seeing how the young man was able to reveal so much about the White Orchid Flower before him, a glint appeared in the Fairy Doctor’s eyes. In a surprised voice, she said, “Have you learned how to differentiate the different medicinal plants?”

“I have touched the surface.” Xiao Yan said vaguely as he shrugged his shoulders.

After being with Yao Lao for such a long time, Xiao Yan had not only learned how to refine medicine but to differentiate the different types of medicinal ingredients too. With Yao Lao’s experience, he had seen all kinds of rare medicinal plants and as his disciple, Yao Lao had naturally imparted all this knowledge to him.

“It can be said that the White Orchard Fruit is fair game for anyone who found it but since you were the first to find it, I shall not snatch it from you.” After giving Xiao Yan a smile, the Fairy Doctor crouched down and carefully picked the crimson fruit from the bunch of flowers before handing it over to Xiao Yan.

Seeing the Fairy Doctor’s action, Xiao Yan touched his head and nodded indifferently. The White Orchard Fruit may be something rare and precious to others but it was something that Xiao Yan could do without. However, since the Fairy Doctor did not want it, it did not hurt to keep it.

“Alright. The group is probably well rested by now. Let us hurry back.” After seeing Xiao Yan accept the White Orchard Fruit, the Fairy Doctor

hurriedly said with a suspicious happiness.

Holding the cold White Orchid Flower in his hand, Xiao Yan observed the impatience of the Fairy Doctor and frowned. His eyes narrowed as he felt that the Fairy Doctor now... appeared a little out of the ordinary.

“Why is she rushing to leave?”

A suspicion flashed across his heart as Xiao Yan placed the White Orchard Fruit into his breast pocket. Acting as though nothing was amiss, Xiao Yan randomly asked, “Why did you go beyond the cliff?”

Once Xiao Yan’s question left his mouth, the Fairy Doctor suddenly froze. A panicked expression appeared on her face for a fraction of second before being quickly hidden.

“Nothing, some medicinal plants grow on the cliff wall so I was just going down to take a look.”

“Oh...” Xiao Yan nodded his head. With this reason the Fairy Doctor had removed some of the suspicion in him. After all, there were indeed some medicinal plants that grew along the cliff wall.

“No, there seems to be something below the cliff...”

Just as Xiao Yan was about to turn around, Yao Lao’s voice suddenly appeared in his heart.

With narrowed eyes, Xiao Yan involuntarily stepped forward. The precipitous cliff wall entered his sight.

On the cliff wall, there was only broken rocks, strange branches that were randomly growing and some bone like object.

Xiao Yan’s eyes slowly swept across the cliff wall. A moment later, he paused at a spot that was covered by the distorted branches that grew from it.

The strange wooden branches that were on the cliff wall were arranged in a clever manner but with Yao Lao’s reminder, Xiao Yan realized that something was amiss.

With the help of the sunlight, Xiao Yan’s narrowed eyes could barely

make out a pitch black empty hole under the cover of the branches...

“There is indeed something amiss...” Watching that particular spot on the cliff wall, Xiao Yan whispered in his heart. Suddenly, Xiao Yan’s face changed. His feet staggered as his body retreated. He yelled, “What are you doing?”

As Xiao Yan stepped backwards, white powder was suddenly scattered all over and quickly covered the retreating Xiao Yan,

The white powder surrounded Xiao Yan for a long while before it was slowly scattered by the wind, revealing an unconscious Xiao Yan on the ground.

Eyeing the unconscious Xiao Yan, the Fairy Doctor dusted the powder from her hands. She bit her lips and sighed, “I told you to leave but you didn’t listen to me. Now you know.”

Shaking her head, the Fairy Doctor slowly walked towards the fainted Xiao Yan and lowered her body. She took out a rope, grabbed Xiao Yan’s hand and prepared to restrain it.

Just as the Fairy Doctor was about to withstrain Xiao Yan, something unexpected occurred.

Xiao Yan, who was supposed to be unconscious, suddenly opened his eyes and rotated his palms. Catching the Fairy Doctor off guard, Xiao Yan reached out and grabbed her.

“I didn’t expect that you would actually be using such things. If it was not for my preparation, I would really have been drugged by you.”

The sudden change shocked her but it did not slow the Fairy Doctor’s reaction. After her hand was captured by Xiao Yan, she threw a violent kick at him.

Seeing that the Fairy Doctor relentless, Xiao Yan let out a cold laugh. Mirroring her, he kicked out his right leg and heavily knocked the Fairy Doctor’s small feet aside. Immediately, pain filled her gentle pretty face

Despite succeeding in one strike, Xiao Yan did not stop. Like a ribbon,

his left leg held down both of the Fairy Doctor's legs. Following that, both of them fell onto the ground, with Xiao Yan pressing down tightly on the Fairy Doctor.

The softness from beneath him caused Xiao Yan's head to tremble. Secretly, he let out a pleased cry. Lowering his head, he stared at the red faced Fairy Doctor and raised his lips as he shook his lower body like a hooligan. Immediately, the two bodies became closer to each other.

"Let me go!" The male scent above her caused the Fairy Doctor to feel a little giddy as she clenched her teeth and seethed.

"Why did you attack me?"

Her moist red lips trembled as the Fairy Doctor coldly smiled, "Because I dislike you."

"Do you believe that I would take you here and now?" Lowering his head such that they could almost feel each other's breathing, Xiao Yan coldly smiled.

"If you have the confidence to handle the hundred plus mercenaries outside, you can try!" the Fairy Doctor said.

"The breasts aren't full enough, the butt doesn't stick out, I am not really interested." Xiao Yan teasingly smiled before his face slowly turned colder. "What is below the cliff?"

"I don't know what you are talking about." The Fairy Doctor's face changed slightly as she pressed her eyebrows together and said, "Quickly let me go or else I will scream. If the others see you doing this to me, you can forget about walking out of this Magic Beast Mountain Range alive."

"Why don't you shout? If you want to let more people know about the secret below, you can shout till your voice becomes hoarse." Xiao Yan's emotionless voice quickly caused the Fairy Doctor to give up on her intention to shout.

"What do you plan to do?" The Fairy Doctor took in a deep breath and seethed.

“What is there below? If you don’t answer me truthfully, I don’t mind tying you up and hiding you here before going down to take a look for myself.”

“You...” Hearing Xiao Yan’s threat, the Fairy Doctor’s face appeared to panic. Although she was slightly older than Xiao Yan, her mental strength and shrewdness was nowhere near Xiao Yan’s.

“I heard that there is an Magic Beast known as a Co-Ape in the Magic Beast Mountain Range. This kind of Magic Beast has an interest in human woman...” With the corner of his mouth rising teasingly, Xiao Yan lowered his head and with his lips touching the Fairy Doctor’s ears, he whispered into it.

“You bastard!” The Fairy Doctor’s face turned white as she obviously suffered a great shock. She had also heard of this horrible Magic Beast’s name.

“Let me up. I will tell you what is at the below.” Under Xiao Yan’s threat, this Fairy Doctor who could not hold out any longer, helplessly gave up.

With a smile, Xiao Yan pushed himself up before helping the Fairy Doctor do the same. As a precaution, he forcefully held on to her wrist and ignored her embarrassed and angry expression.

Both of them headed to the edge of the cliff and stared simultaneously at the strange spot on the cliff wall. A while later, the Fairy Doctor’s red lips slightly opened and somewhat unwillingly said, “That is a something that I have accidentally found when I was gathering medicinal herbs. Hidden behind the strange branches is a cave that is hard to notice.”

“The cave should contain some things that some ancestor left behind. However, I have never entered it, so I am uncertain about its interior. However, from some of the clues that were left behind, the ancestor who left this should be very strong.”

Chapter 114: Treasure Hunt

“A cave?”

Lifting his eyebrow, Xiao Yan watched the Fairy Doctor with great interest as he said, “You were trying to enter it a moment ago, weren’t you?”

“Yes but the cliff is too steep. I cannot get in.”

The Fairy Doctor threw a glance at the eager Xiao Yan and said blandly, “I can share this secret with you but you better not have any ideas about trying to pocket it all. Otherwise, I will not allow you to smoothly obtain the things. Believe me, my strength may not be comparable with you but as a two star Dou Zhe, you cannot be considered to be strong within the entire Qingshan Town.”

Seeing the seriousness on the Fairy Doctor’s face, Xiao Yan smiled, touched his nose and teased, “Originally, I had intended to knock you out and go down myself. But seeing your confidence... to be on the safe side, I better dismiss this notion.”

Hearing this, the Fairy Doctor snorted and threw Xiao Yan a cutting gaze. She did not expect that this person actually possessed such an idea.

“Do you want me to try now?”

Taking a step forward, Xiao Yan stared at the dangerous position of the strange branches before tilting his head and asked.

“Forget it. We have already been away from quite a while. If we do not return, Mu Li will become suspicious. The medicinal herb picking team will be staying at the Magic Beast Mountain Range for a night so why don’t we come tonight?” Shaking her head, the Fairy Doctor voiced her thoughts.

“Mu Li. He’s Wolf Head Mercenary Company’s young master, right?”

“Yes.” The Fairy Doctor nodded her head slightly, obviously unwilling to talk more about this person. After staring at Xiao Yan, she softly asked, “Your name?”

“Xiao Yan.”

Without saying a word, the Fairy Doctor nodded, turned around and walked towards the dense forested area.

Watching the graceful figure slowly disappear into the shadows, Xiao Yan simply shrugged. He turned around and once again threw his gaze at the barely visible cave entrance and excitedly waved his hands. When he was conversing with the mercenaries back at Wu Tan City, he had been very interested in this kind of adventure and treasure hunting. Was it not for his agreement with the Fairy Doctor, he would have immediately left the group and searched for the treasure alone.

After a quiet laugh, Xiao Yan also turned around and headed towards the dense forested area. He did not expect that his random stroll would actually grant him such a big reward.

By the time the pair had returned to the troop, they found that the resting mercenaries were already gathered and waiting.

“Fairy Doctor, if you were missing any longer, we would have sent people to look for you.”

Seeing the Fairy Doctor walking out from the dense forested area, a figure hurried over. However, his footsteps paused when he noticed Xiao Yan appearing behind her. He asked with a smile, “Who is this young boy?”

“He’s one of the mercenary guards. I coincidentally met him.”

The Fairy Doctor replied nonchalantly before softly continuing, “Young Master Mu Li, let’s get going. There’s still some distance to cover before we arrive at our destination.”

“Ke ke. Alright.”

The young man who was addressed as Young Master Mu Li nodded with a smile. He shifted his body and allowed the Fairy Doctor to pass. However, when Xiao Yan was walking past, he reached out his hand and halted him.

Pressing his eyebrows together, Xiao Yan tilted his head to eye the handsome looking young company master and asked with a smile, "Is something the matter, Young Master Mu Li."

"Hehe, I've no ill intention. You should be that young two star Dou Zhe, right? I've heard from my subordinates that your talent is great." With a smile, Mu Li slowly asked.

"I am merely lucky." Glancing at the seemingly warm smile on Mu Li's face, Xiao Yan replied indifferently.

"Do you have an interest in joining the Wolf Head Mercenary Company? Our Mercenary Company will give an outstanding talent like you preferential treatment. After all, one's life is always in danger in this Magic Beast Mountain Range. It would be good if someone were to take care of you." Mu Li laughed, his ten fingers crossing over each other.

Listening to Mu Li's obvious attempt to recruit him, Xiao Yan rubbed his nose and shook his head. He replied, "Haha, sorry. I'm a wild and lazy person. If I were to join your company, I might end up giving you quite a lot of trouble and disappoint you."

"Ke ke, it doesn't matter. Little brother, if you were to change your mind in the future, you can come find me anytime. The honored positions of the Wolf Head Mercenary Company will always be open to those who are strong." Hearing Xiao Yan's rejection, Mu Li smiled and waved his hand in a manner that showed his lack of concern.

With an apologetic face, Xiao Yan sidestepped Mu Li and hurried back into the skirmishers unit at the front.

Watching Xiao Yan hurriedly join the group, Mu Li's eyes narrowed. In the depth of his eyes, a faint coldness could be seen. Evidently, Xiao Yan's rejection had aroused some anger within him.

"Little boy. I hope that you will not disrupt my plans. Otherwise, I don't care about your future achievements and will have you stay in this Magic Beast Mountain Range forever!" Mu Li clenched his fist. Not only did his voice not contain the warmth earlier, it was actually filled with an evil chill.

After the mercenaries had a brief rest, they once again continued the journey. The route they took this time around was much quieter than the one earlier. Along the way, they were met with Magic Beast attacks twice but neither caused too much of a disturbance.

The group finally arrived at their destination just as the sky was gradually becoming darker. It was a sunken basin that was covered with numerous medicinal plants.

There were many different types of medicinal plants growing within the sunken basin. The medicinal aroma floated in the air, which upon being inhaled, would immediately give one a refreshed feeling.

“Everyone, let’s set up camp here. Please be careful not to damage any of the surrounding medicinal herbs.” The Fairy Doctor turned around and gently smiled to everyone as she wiped the perspiration from her forehead.

Hearing the Fairy Doctor words, the surrounding mercenaries immediately gave a loud response and began enthusiastically setting up their tents.

Watching how just a sentence from the Fairy Doctor had motivated the mercenaries to work hard, Xiao Yan secretly whistled in his heart. It seemed that the position this lady held in their hearts was much higher than what he had expected.

Shaking his head, Xiao Yan gave another glance at the Fairy Doctor who had began instructing the medicinal herb gathering team on the unearthing of the medicinal plants before freely roaming around.

For some unknown reason, the sunken basin had a much richer and purer energy than compared to the outside. This had provided the necessary condition for many different medicinal plants to grow.

The basin was extremely wide and its internal terrain was something that even the ‘Thousand Medicine House’ had yet to fully explore. The current position that Xiao Yan and the others were occupying was only the exterior lane of the huge basin.

Xiao Yan explored the edges but he did not find any medicinal ingredient that he required. He disappointedly shook his head and glanced into the pitch-black interior. After a brief silence, he finally chose to obediently return. With his current strength, there was danger in every part of the Magic Beast Mountain Range.

When he had returned to the campsite, numerous white tents were already set up and the mercenaries were busying themselves with dinner.

The first thing he noticed when he entered the camp was the Fairy Doctor standing gracefully at the middle. By her side was Mu Li, who was following her closely.

During the time that Xiao Yan watched the pair, the Fairy Doctor and Mu Li diverted their gaze to him, seemingly having sensed his eyes. The three gazes clashed but the emotions within them were entirely different.

With a smile on his face, Xiao Yan nodded to the two before turning around and heading to the interior of one of the tents.

Watching Xiao Yan's back disappearing, Mu Li faced the Fairy Doctor and with a grin said, "Brother Xiao Yan seems to have great training potential and is likely to have significant achievements in the future."

"Maybe." The Fairy Doctor smiled faintly, neither denying nor agreeing.

"I will go and check on the medicinal ingredients. As for the order in the camp, I will need to trouble you Young Master Mu Li." The Fairy Doctor smiled to Mu Li and upon seeing the latter nod his head, she headed to a large tent in the middle of the camp.

Mu Li stared at the the Fairy Doctor's elegant back until she disappeared from his sight. Finally, he unwillingly turned his gaze away, clenched his fist and lifted the corner of his mouth to form a strange smile.

The sun slowly descended behind the mountain and darkness encompassed the forest. The shadows of the leaves and branches intermingled and formed images of shadowy fierce beasts.

Following the darkening sky, the camp had also become quieter. Other than the mercenaries keeping watch, only the soft crackling of the

firewood under the flame could be heard.

Under the quiet darkness, a tent suddenly moved slightly. A dark graceful shadow secretly exited and quietly escaped into the dark forest through a gap between the guards.

Not long after the black figure had left, another shadow exited from another tent and closely followed the former.

.....

The occasional wolf howl escaped from the dense forest, causing the mercenaries to shudder.

The two shadows a distance apart continued to walk briskly, steadily increasing their distance from the camp.

In the darkness, Xiao Yan lifted his head and with the help from the faint moonlight, stared at the graceful figure ahead of him. He chased after it, a faint smile on his face.

“The treasure hunt is about to begin...”

The lingering uneasiness in the darkness was dissipated by the excitement of the young man.

Chapter 115: Danger at the Cave Entrance

On the precipitous cliff, two shadows appeared under the bright glow of the moon.

“Shall we start?”

Xiao Yan took a step forward to gaze at the pitch-black space beyond cliff before turning to smile and ask the Fairy Doctor who was clothed tightly in black.

Slightly nodding her head, the Fairy Doctor squatted down to pick up a few pieces of dry sticks before swiftly binding them together, forming two torches. She sprinkled some light yellow powder over them and then found a fire source to light the torches.

“Take this.” Handing over the torch to Xiao Yan, the Fairy Doctor once again fished out a long rope and waved it at Xiao Yan, smiling while saying, “As a man, you won’t let a weak girl like me be the vanguard right?”

Xiao Yan held up the torch and pulled at the rope with all his strength, after making sure that there were no problems with it. He then cast a glance towards the smiling Fairy Doctor, shook his head, and coolly replied, “Let us go down together, I can’t be at ease if I trust my back to someone I have not known for long.”

“You..... do you really have no manliness?”

Being doubted by Xiao Yan made the Fairy Doctor feel indignant. Usually, the mercenaries she met were rather outspoken and straightforward, she rarely saw someone like Xiao Yan who was cautious even towards a weak girl like her who was only a Dou Zhe.

“I only have one life and I can’t afford to gamble with it, acting like a hero in front of a beauty would put myself into danger..... chuckles, might as well forget it.” Xiao Yan ignored the Fairy Doctor, his tone remained as calm as water.

“You.....”

“Still planning on going down? If there are any more delays, it would be morning.” Xiao Yan slanted back his head as he smiled while asking.

“Go!” Gazing at Xiao Yan’s repulsive smile, the Fairy Doctor could only grit her teeth and stamp her little feet hatefully.

With a faint smile, Xiao Yan tied the rope to a large and sturdy tree. Once more testing it with all his might before spreading his arms to gesture for the Fairy Doctor to enter his embrace, “Come here.”

“I have my own rope, I don’t need your help!” When she saw Xiao Yan’s action, the Fairy Doctor abruptly stumbled back a few steps, her charming face flushing with shades of bashfulness and anger as she exclaimed.

“Alright then. You can go solo but I’d like to remind you that no one can guarantee that there will be no poisonous snakes, scorpions or mice..... under the cliff tonight.” Xiao Yan nonchalantly smiled and said as he shrugged his shoulders.

“You bastard. You will definitely die a horrible death!”

A black shadow ferociously threw itself at Xiao Yan and the latter, extending out his palm, grabbed it with his hand. Taking a look, he discovered that it was the bundle of rope that was originally in the Fairy Doctor’s hands.

“If you dare to try any funny business, I will definitely poison you to death!”

In the wake of the Fairy Doctor’s threat, a fragrant breeze blew towards Xiao Yan. Shortly, a soft and tender body crashed into his embrace.

The soft and tender body that crashed into his embrace felt like it also crashed into the bottom of his heart, causing his heart to tremble uncontrollably.

Sighing deeply, Xiao Yan pushed down the stirring fire in his heart. Xiao Yan reached out with his arm to wrap around the slim waist he had once praised as the highest quality. With both arms tightly drawing the soft and slender waist towards himself, Xiao Yan momentarily lost his wits.

“Are you still not leaving?”

Just as Xiao Yan was enjoying that lovely softness and flexibility, the Fairy Doctor’s indignant voice suddenly flared up in his ear.

“Sorry.”

Xiao Yan laughed, however, his words contained no trace of apology. Once again tightly drawing the beauty towards himself, the tip of his foot lightly tapped off the edge of the cliff. The duo directly plunged into the pitch-black darkness that was under the cliff.

The violent gusts of wind assaulted their ears, stretching their clothes against their respective skins. Xiao Yan’s left hand held onto the Fairy Doctor while the rope bound around his right hand abruptly pulled taut causing their rapidly dropping bodies to slowly become suspended in mid air.

After a long, long sigh, Xiao Yan turned his head to look down at the Fairy Doctor who was hugging him tightly which caused him to let out a mocking smile. His gaze turned over the pitch-black surroundings, softly asking, “Can you tell where the position of the cave is?”

As she heard Xiao Yan asking about serious matters, the Fairy Doctor finally eased the tenseness that had come about from the ‘bungee jumping’. Her gaze swept all around as she muttered to herself before pointing towards one part of the darkness and softly saying, “It should be there.....”

Xiao Yan gazed towards the direction the Fairy Doctor was pointing at, lightly nodding his head and reminded her in a low voice, “Hold tight.”

At these words, the Fairy Doctor somewhat hesitated, however when Xiao Yan stepped off the cliff wall with the tip of his foot and their figures once again fiercely flung away, she hurriedly grabbed onto Xiao Yan’s waist in alarm, burying her face into his embrace.

The tips of Xiao Yan’s foot continued to move along the cliff wall and with the help of the pulling force from the rope, the distance between the duo and the cave lessened.

“Throw the torch over.” Once again shortening the distance, Xiao Yan said in a low voice as he tilted his chin towards the dark spot in the distance.

“Oh.” The charming face slightly nodded in understanding as the Fairy Doctor aimed at the dark spot and flung the torch in her hand towards it.

The torch was flung against the walls of the cliff as sparks splashed in all directions. Borrowing these meager lights, Xiao Yan managed to vaguely spot the hidden cave in the distance.

“Huu.....” Seeing that they had almost arrived at their destination, Xiao Yan heaved a sigh of relief. Then the hairs all over his body suddenly stood up as a warning flashed across his mind. The tip of his foot pushed heavily off the cliff walls as Xiao Yan’s figure shot outwards.

“Chi.....” The faint sound of breaking through the air sounded across the night sky. Xiao Yan borrowed the light of the fire which had yet to go out to identify the thing which had made a sneak attack.

“Cliff Snake.” Xiao Yan’s complexion darkened as he shouted out this name and his facial expression suddenly turned somewhat ugly.

Cliff Snakes, as their name implied, were snake type Magic Beasts which lived within rocky cliffs and was around rank one in terms of strength. This kind of Magic Beast utilizes its long, wing-like body to soar in the sky like a falcon; furthermore since this Magic Beast has a rock attribute, it’s body is hard as rock and thus normal weapons would hardly be able to do any damage to it.

On an ordinary day, even if Xiao Yan met a Cliff Snake alone, he would be in a tangle with victory uncertain. Yet now, because he was in mid air while holding on to the Fairy Doctor, he could not possibly try to fight it. Thus laid the reason why Xiao Yan’s complexion was ugly.

“Cliff Snake? What do we do now?” Having heard Xiao Yan’s cry of alarm, the Fairy Doctor’s delicate body trembled as she hastily asked, she had also heard of information about this Magic Beast.

Xiao Yan squinted at the yellow Cliff Snake which spiralled in the air

while glaring coldly at them with its triangular eyes. He muttered to himself for a moment before an idea suddenly came and he asked in a low voice, “Do you still have the powder that can cause people to lose consciousness?”

At this words, the Fairy Doctor’s jet-black eyes spun, short after she nodded before fishing a bag of powder from her bosom and handing it over to Xiao Yan, and said, “This is all that’s left, use it sparingly..... “

Xiao Yan took the bag and poured everything into his hand before gripping tightly. He stared at the Cliff Snake which was about to start attacking.

“Chi.....”

With another hiss, the Cliff Snake’s narrow wings flapped. With an ominous glint in its eyes, it dived toward Xiao Yan. In its huge mouth, sharp fangs shined with a cold light.

Coldly gazing at the Cliff Snake which drew ever closer, Xiao Yan’s gripped his fist tighter and tighter.

“Quickly attack it, idiot!” In his embrace, seeing that Xiao Yan had yet to make a move, the Fairy Doctor hurriedly urged him.

Ignoring her urgings, Xiao Yan maintained his silence, yet the Dou Qi within his body had already started to flow through his arteries and veins.

Eyes on the Cliff Snake which was already almost within ten meters of them, the Fairy Doctor clawed at Xiao Yan’s back in anger, “Bastard, I’ll be killed because of you!”

Just as the Cliff Snake was about ten meters from the duo, Xiao Yan finally made his move. His tightly closed fist suddenly opened and within his palm a violent Qi burst out, carrying the white powder. Like a white arrow, it smashed towards the Cliff Snake.

The white powder crashed against the Cliff Snake, suddenly exploding into a cloud of powder, engulfing the Cliff Snake within.

“Thud!”

A yellow figure struggled in the white powder for a moment before rigidly falling from the sky, heavily smashing into the deep valley.

Gazing at the Cliff Snake as it disappeared into the darkness, Xiao Yan finally sighed in relief. At this height, even if it's body were as hard as rock, it would also turn to mincemeat right?

Xiao Yan lifted his head to take a look at the white powder floating in mid air. Once again waving his palm, a violent Qi suddenly pushed forward, immediately sweeping through the air.

"I can't believe that you have other skills besides knowing how to bully women." Although Xiao Yan somewhat cheated in that fight, his calmness even in the middle of that dangerous situation could be clearly seen. Even the Fairy Doctor started to feel a new level of respect for him.

Unenthusiastically smiling, Xiao Yan finally carried the Fairy Doctor in his arms while slowly descending to a spot just outside of the cave. As he gazed upon the cave entrance, he found it densely covered with rubble and the odd bits of wood. His brows wrinkled together and soon after he shook his head helplessly, it looked like there was another round of bitter work in store for him.

Xiao Yan slowly opened his palm, taking in a deep breath, he shouted out in his mind: "Fire Palm!"

As the shout resounded in his mind, a huge pushing force gushed forth from the center of his palm. Like a gale sweeping through fallen leaves, it blew the piles of broken rock and timber into the pitch-black space between the mountains.

Having completed the task, beads of cold sweat appeared on Xiao Yan's forehead while his breathing also became somewhat hurried. Under the suppression of the pitch-black broadsword on his back, the amount of Dou Qi he could use was not even 60-70% of the Qi Vortex.

After panting slightly for a while, Xiao Yan cast his sight towards the now cleared cave entrance.

Now that the wood and rock wreckage was gone, borrowing the faint

moonlight, Xiao Yan and the Fairy Doctor were finally able to catch sight of the cave which had been left behind by some predecessor.

The cave entrance was not very wide, at most it could only fit about two or three people at once. The cave was dark but one could notice a faint light from within, giving it a look of mysteriousness.

Around the entrance of the cave, there were many blade marks but perhaps because of the long passage of time, these blade marks were extremely faint. If it were not for Xiao Yan's keen eyesight, perhaps he would never be able to find them.

"We're finally here....."

Laughing with excitement, Xiao Yan hugged the Fairy Doctor. With one last push off the cliff wall, the two figures flew across the air before finally landing steadily at the entrance of the cave.

After landing, the Fairy Doctor quickly separated herself from Xiao Yan's embrace before sizing up the cave entrance with a look of happiness on her charming face.

"Let's move and find out what kind of things we might obtain, I hope that they will not disappoint me."

Xiao Yan lightly smiled at the Fairy Doctor and fishing out a torch, he led the way into the pitch-black cave.

Gazing at the pitch-black interior of the cave, the Fairy Doctor was somewhat hesitant. A moment later she stamped her feet and gritted her teeth before catching up.

Chapter 116: Ice Spirit Blazing Grass

The coldness and darkness of the surroundings engulfed the two as they walked within the quiet mountain cave. Amidst the silence, only the soft footsteps of two people could be heard.

The surrounding atmosphere caused the Fairy Doctor to instinctively hug herself. She raised her head and watched Xiao Yan walking slowly ahead of her. A brief hesitation later, she increased her pace and closely followed behind him. In this environment, only the young man in front of her gave her some sense of security.

After walking for over ten minutes in the quiet atmosphere, the Fairy Doctor started feeling that the insanely quiet atmosphere was unbearable. At that moment, however, the young man in front of her abruptly stopped.

“Ah...” The Fairy Doctor failed to react in time and knocked softly into Xiao Yan’s back.

The intimate encounter caused the Fairy Doctor to take a step back with an extremely red face as she embarrassingly said, “What are you doing?”

The earlier soft contact had also caused Xiao Yan to take in a deep and heavy breath. He coughed drily as he pointed towards a rock door where a faint yellow light was emitted and helplessly said, “It’s a dead end.”

Hearing this, the Fairy Doctor pressed her eyebrows together and took two steps forward. Facing the door, she said in a deep voice, “Behind the rock door ought to be our destination. If the ancient elder had built a cave here, I don’t think that he would have created one that leads to nowhere.”

Xiao Yan stepped forward and touched the rock door. After estimating its thickness, he slowly shook his head. “The rock door is very thick and requires the strength of a Dou Shi to forcefully break it.”

“All that you know is how to use force. Look at the yellow light that is emitted from the rock door; this is obviously a ground element trap technique. If you pay more attention to the details, it isn’t difficult to open it.” After giving Xiao Yan a disparaging look, the Fairy Doctor placed her

thin hand on the rock door which began to slowly move.

“You know about trap techniques? If I recall correctly, that is something a wood or ground element Dou Zhe is good at.” Seeing the serious face on the Fairy Doctor, Xiao Yan could not help but curiously ask.

“It’s just that I have read some books on trap techniques. I cannot be considered competent but it should not be a problem if I use it to probe around.” The Fairy Doctor carelessly answered as her hand’s action remained as graceful as ever.

Xiao Yan nodded his head but did not disturb her surveyance. His gaze moved away from the rock door and using a faint light, sized up the surrounding rock walls.

On the rock wall were some faint carvings. They had grown blurry but Xiao Yan could make out a couple of human shapes which were likely left behind by the cave owner.

“Found it!!” Just as Xiao Yan was studying the rock wall, the Fairy Doctor’s happy voice prompted him to shift his gaze.

Beside the rock wall, the Fairy Doctor was already squated down; her thin hand was touching a small protruding spot on the rock wall. When she pressed on it, a creaking sound slowly echoed through the cave.

Watching the rising rock door, Xiao Yan heaved a sigh of relief and gave the Fairy Doctor a thumbs up.

Following the rising rock door, a faint light emitted from behind it, chasing away the darkness around them.

Seeing the bright interior behind the rock wall, the Fairy Doctor smiled but retreated two steps. Then she faced Xiao Yan, raising her chin and smiled, “Please, go in.”

Shrugging his shoulders, Xiao Yan picked up a few stones and violently threw them into the cave. He felt slightly reassured when he did not notice any reaction.

“You’re really an overly cautious person.” Seeing that Xiao Yan did not

forget to be careful even at this moment, the Fairy Doctor could only shake her head helplessly.

“Thanks for your compliment.” Smiling indifferently, Xiao Yan stepped carefully across the rock door and entered the interior.

Seeing that Xiao Yan had stepped forward, the Fairy Doctor followed closely behind.

Upon stepping into the interior of the cave, their range of vision suddenly widened.

Beyond the rock door was an enormous room which appeared somewhat simple and empty. Mounted on the walls were Moonstones that were used as a source of light. At the center of the room was a chair that seated a skeleton with its fallen skull placed on its thigh bone. This scene, when viewed from this quiet atmosphere, appeared quite ghastly.

In front of the chair was a wide and long black stone table. Three locked stone containers were neatly placed on it.

Additionally, there were large numbers of shiny gold coins and other precious items in the other three corners. Just by the number of the gold coins, the total wealth in this room was over the hundreds of thousands.

Valuables and money were not something that Xiao Yan lacked and from the way these valuables were randomly placed, it seemed that their owner did not hold them in high regard either.

Xiao Yan shifted his gaze away from the shiny gold, moving them to the last corner of the room instead. Happiness surfaced on his face when he did.

The last corner of the room was a flower bed made by piling soil together. Within it grew numerous different flowers and plants that shrouded the flower bed with fragrances.

While staring at these plants, Xiao Yan and the Fairy Doctor hurried forward in union. An ordinary person may not recognize these plants but they knew very well that these seemingly ordinary plants was worth more than the piles of gold in the room.

“Purple Blue Leaf, White Spirit Ginseng Fruit, Snow Lotus Seed....”

The Fairy Doctor blankly stared at the small flower bed. One by one, the names of rare and expensive medical ingredients secretly leaped from her red moist mouth.

“Ice Spirit Blazing Grass!”

As he swept his gaze across the flower bed, Xiao Yan suddenly pulled back his gaze and stared intently at the middle of the flowerbed where a red and white grass grew.

The leaves of this grass were separated into two colors. Its stem, which was white, was also covered with droplets of what appeared to be icy crystals while its reddish tips were like a ball of burning flame. The two opposing colors and elements had miraculously grown on the plant.

A faint mist surrounded this plant, giving it an appearance of floating amongst the clouds.

This strange grass was named ‘Ice Spirit Blazing Grass’, an exceedingly rare ingredient that was also a necessary ingredient for the ‘Blood Lotus Pill’.

Xiao Yan excitedly stared at the medicinal grass as an agitated expression appeared on his face. Two of the medicinal ingredients that he had found no news despite having searched the entire Wu Tan City for six months had ended up in his hands not long after beginning his travels. This unexpected gain was something that filled Xiao Yan’s heart with happiness.

“Do you also recognise this?” Eyeing at how Xiao Yan was excitedly staring at the Ice Spirit Blazing Grass, the Fairy Doctor asked with a surprised voice.

“Um. This is something I need.” Xiao Yan nodded his head before tilting to gaze at the Fairy Doctor.

“What an unlikable person. Choosing the most valuable one straight off the bat.” Hearing Xiao Yan’s words, the Fairy Doctor immediately raised her eyebrows and muttered in an unwilling manner.

Smiling embarrassingly, Xiao Yan waved his hand, "I'm sorry but I really need it. I've been searching for it for quite awhile."

Seeing that the Fairy Doctor still appeared depressed, Xiao Yan could only helplessly said, "Why don't we do it like this. I will take the Ice Spirit Blazing Grass. As for the remaining medicinal herbs here, you will take two thirds and I will take the remaining one third."

Hearing Xiao Yan's suggestion, the Fairy Doctor nodded her head, the color of her face appearing slightly better.

Xiao Yan let out a breath when he saw the Fairy Doctor nodded her head. Without worrying about drawing suspicion, he extracted many exquisite jade bottles from his storage ring and a jade shovel. He carefully dug away the soil surrounding the Ice Spirit Blazing Grass and finally placed the plant, together with the soil into a jade bottle.

"Hu...." Xiao Yan quickly stored the jade bottle into his storage ring before opening the corner of his mouth and smiling. After which, he handed the jade shovel to the Fairy Doctor indicating for her to dig out the medicinal plants.

The Fairy Doctor's eyes followed the Ice Spirit Blazing Grass as Xiao Yan stored it into his storage ring before unwillingly withdrawing her gaze. For someone like her who loved medicine, obtaining one exceedingly rare medicinal plant would make her far happier than obtaining hundreds of thousands of money or pieces of jewelry.

The Fairy Doctor sighed, feeling very vexed inside. Had this guy not accidentally discovered the secret on the cliff, all of this would have belonged to her. But now... alas, recalling this caused her to feel an urge to cry but her tears was not forthcoming.

"You should just go and die, bastard."

After cursing, the Fairy Doctor received the shovel from Xiao Yan and began to carefully dig out the precious medicinal plants from the flowerbed before placing them into the jade bottles.

After eyeing the Fairy Doctor digging out the medicinal plants, Xiao

Yan's gaze once again roamed throughout the room but he spotted nothing of interest. Finally, he returned his gaze back to the three stone containers placed in the middle of the room.

Xiao Yan slowly walked towards the front of the stone table and touched the metal lock. He felt some warmth as his skin made contact, causing him to frown. For it to be able to retain warmth over such a long time, the lock was definitely not made of an ordinary metal. It would be pointless to try to forcefully break it.

"Where's the key?" Xiao Yan muttered to himself as he scanned around. His eyes soon fell onto the skeleton seated behind the stone table. When he lowered his gaze, his eyes brightened as he found three black keys hanging from its hand.

Rubbing his hands, Xiao Yan stepped forward and stared at the skeleton. Disgust filled his heart as he slowly unclenched his fist before carefully grabbing the keys and pulled lightly.

"Crack..." Due to the years that had passed, the small force managed to break the skeleton's arm, causing it to fall.

Seeing the broken skeleton hand, Xiao Yan smiled awkwardly before bowing to the remaining skeleton. After which, Xiao Yan bent to pick up the broken arm, intending to replace it.

Xiao Yan's hand wrapped around the skeleton arm when his eyebrows suddenly rose. He could feel that the weight of this bone was a little unnatural...

From the corner of his eyes, Xiao peeked at the Fairy Doctor who was carefully digging up the medicinal plants before returning to the skeleton bone in his hand. His eyes observed the broken portion at the top only to discover that there was a small scroll hidden within the gap of the bone. Eyeing the stealthily hidden scroll, Xiao Yan swallowed his saliva as his finger involuntarily reached inwards and swiftly pulled it out before throwing it into his storage ring.

Only after the scroll was in his storage ring did Xiao Yan sigh in relief. He swept the dust from the skeleton arm before placing it back on its

original position, Xiao Yan grinned, flung the keys in his hands and slowly headed to the three stone containers on the stone table.

Chapter 117: Flying Dou Technique: Eagle Wing

Xiao Yan carried the keys to the boxes and once again, he touched the warm metal lock. Tilting his head and glancing at the Fairy Doctor who had finished digging out all the medicinal plants, he smiled and said, "Hurry over here. I don't want to be accused of trying to pocket everything when I open these boxes."

"At least you have some sort of conscience."

The Fairy Doctor raised her nose, carried the ten plus bottles in her chest and placed them on the stone table. Finally, she unwillingly selected six bottles and handed them to Xiao Yan: "Hey, these are yours."

Xiao Yan received them with a smile, took a brief glance and stored them into his storage ring. The Ice Spirit Blazing Grass was already in his hands so the other valuable medicinal plants were not very important to Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan waved the three black keys in front of the Fairy Doctor and smiled: "Then I will be opening them."

"Open them!" After throwing Xiao Yan an irritated look, the Fairy Doctor quickly slotted the jade bottles around her waist and chest. Immediately, her narrow waist appeared much fuller than before.

Xiao Yan licked his lips as he stared at the stone containers. He randomly selected one of the keys, lifted the first lock and carefully inserted it.

"Not this..." The key stuck halfway causing Xiao Yan to shrug and replace it with a second key.

"Wrong again."

Helplessly shaking his head, Xiao Yan held the last key tightly and once again carefully inserted it into the keyhole.

Seeing the key slowly disappearing into the lock, Xiao Yan and the Fairy

Doctor both unintentionally held their breath. The only noise in the entire room came from the key being pushed through the keyhole of the metal lock.

“Clang...” Suddenly, a light clear noise was emitted from within the room, prompting Xiao Yan’s hand to freeze.

“It’s unlocked.” Seeing the lock’s shackle being launched from the lock, Xiao Yan let out a relieved sigh and said.

“Hurry up and open it.” The Fairy Doctor’s face was full of desire and happiness as she said in an impatient voice.

Xiao Yan glanced at the anxious Fairy Doctor but did not heed her call. Instead, he grabbed her hand and stepped back. He then lined up his palm with the box and unleashed an intense force from his palm which lifted the lid of the stone box.

After the lid was lifted, Xiao Yan waited a moment longer and sighed in relief after seeing that there was no reaction. Glancing at the Fairy Doctor who had her hands around her chest while coldly staring at him, Xiao Yan simply shrugged, “It is always good to be a little careful.”

“If you are thrown into the Magic Beast Mountain Range, I think that you will have a happier time living there than in the outside world. The reason being that even those Magic Beasts are not as careful as you are.” The Fairy Doctor curled her lips and said.

“I share the same thoughts.” Xiao Yan touched his nose and laughed.

After throwing a cutting gaze at the shameless man beside her, the Fairy Doctor walked towards the stone table. She looked into the opened stone box and was shocked. With a face filled with joy, she quickly reached her hand into it and retrieved an ancient rainbow colored scroll.

“What is this?” Xiao Yan curiously looked over and asked.

“A Poison Book that records the methods of making poison.” The Fairy Doctor flipped open the scroll and said with a smile.

“A Poison Book?” Raising his eyebrow in surprise, Xiao Yan took the

scroll from the Fairy Doctor's hand and glanced through it. Seeing the few words written on the side of the seven colored scroll, Xiao Yan said in amazement: "Rainbow Poison Book? There is actually something that focuses on how to create poison? Don't tell me that the one who left this behind was also a physician?"

Physicians were usually the only ones in the Dou Qi continent who used poison to protect themselves. These people who excelled at using such positions were usually called Poison Master within the continent. However, the status of a Poison Master was still a far cry from that of an alchemist.

"Perhaps so. But you're not allowed to split this with me. Due to my elemental affinity, I cannot become an alchemist so I can only rely on these things." A dejected expression appeared on the Fairy Doctor's face after she spoke. It was clear that her greatest desire was to become an alchemist and not a Poison Master that people both hated and disliked.

Eyeing the dejected looking Fairy Doctor, Xiao Yan smiled, handed over the seven colored scroll and said, "This is quite a good thing but it would require much time and effort in order to master it. Just training... Dou Qi consumes all of my energy. I'm not stupid enough to start on something else, biting off more than I can chew."

"Thanks."

The Fairy Doctor felt a deep relief in her heart upon hearing Xiao Yan's words and gave the latter a grateful nod.

"You can put away what you have in your hands. I may not be considered a gentleman but given our our current relationship as partners, I would not try to take everything for myself." Eyeing the Fairy Doctor who was slowing putting away the rainbow scroll, Xiao Yan smiled and said in a bland voice.

The Fairy Doctor's face was stunned as embarrassment surfaced. She unclenched her hand, revealing a small bag of green powder on it.

"I..." Being caught red handed by Xiao Yan, the red faced Fairy Doctor was at a loss for words.

“Forget it. Being a women, it is only natural for you to take some preventive measures when you come with me in search for treasures.” Xiao Yan shrugged and said indifferently.

“Thank you.” Once again, the Fairy Doctor gave a grateful thanks as she hurriedly put away the green powder in her hand.

Xiao Yan touched his face and shifted his gaze towards the second stone container. He inserted a key in and slowly probed the interior.

“What was the effect of the green powder?” As the key in his hand was slowly being inserted deeper into the lock, Xiao Yan randomly threw out a question.

“This was made with Drunken Dragon Grass and a couple of other medicinal ingredients with a sedative effect. Once it is breathed into the body, it would cause one to fall asleep for at least half a day. But this powder is only a simple poison. Anyone with some strength would be able to use Dou Qi to suppress the effect and force it out of the body.” The Fairy Doctor embarrassingly replied.

“Luckily it is not some lethal poison. At least you are not so vicious.” Xiao Yan rubbed his lips together, rotated his wrist and smiled: “It’s opened.”

Following Xiao Yan’s voice, the tightly shut stone box began to slowly open.

Under the light of the Moonstones, everything in the stone box was immediately revealed to Xiao Yan and the Fairy Doctor.

“Another scroll?” Xiao Yan lifted his eyebrow upon noticing a black scroll that was placed in the box.

He reached his hand into the box, took the scroll out and flipped through it. Finally, his gaze paused on the small words at the edge of the scroll: “High Xuan Flying Dou Technique: Eagle Wing.”

“Flying Dou Technique?” Xiao Yan’s eyes gradually became bigger as he muttered the unfamiliar words. In his shock, he said with a hoarse voice: “This is actually a rare Flying Dou Technique?”

“Flying Dou Technique? What is that?”

Hearing this name for the first time, the Fairy Doctor blinked her eyes doubtfully. She had heard of Attack Dou Techniques, Defense Dou Techniques, Agility Dou Technique and many others but it was the first time she had heard of a Flying Dou Technique.

“As the name suggest, this Dou Technique can allow a person to fly in the air.” Xiao Yan smacked his lips in surprise as he explained.

“Fly? Isn’t that something that requires the strength of at least a Dou Ling?” The Fairy Doctor displayed an initial shock at the explanation before appearing confused.

In the Dou Qi continent, only with the strength of a Dou Ling can one leave the ground and fly for a short distance. Only after one’s strength had reached that of a Dou Wang or Dou Huang can one use the Dou Qi to form a pair of energy wings on one’s back. These wings would enable them to overcome their bond to the ground and fly amongst the clouds.

As for the Flying Dou Techniques, they were a strange secret technique that could enable the practitioner to form two small extensions that protruded from the veins on one’s back. With these two extension, one would be able to form a pair of wings and fly in the air even if one did not possess the strength of a Dou Wang.

Flying was something that was a great temptation to many. In order to fulfill this temptation, many strong people put in all their effort to reach for the unreachable dream of becoming a Dou Wang. At the same time, there were also many who wanted to find a shortcut by finding this rare and valuable Flying Type Dou Technique.

Xiao Yan slowly let out a long breath as he held the black scroll in his hand. He forcefully suppressed the happiness in him before waving his hand at the Fairy Doctor.

“I know. This goes to you right?” Having observed Xiao Yan’s action, the Fairy Doctor understood his intention and helplessly nodded.

“Haha, everyone takes what they require.” Xiao Yan grinned. His

acquisitions today had almost caused his face to be paralysed from smiling.

“There’s still one more. Let’s hurry. We will leave once we open it.” the Fairy Doctor shifted her gaze to the last stone box and urged.

“Hum.” With his two acquisitions, Xiao Yan’s body was full of energy. He held the last key that was not used and prepared to open the stone box.

The spacious room once again became quiet. Just as Xiao Yan bent his body and was about to open the box, he suddenly stiffened. He quickly turned around and his face suddenly became dark.

“Someone’s coming!”

“What?” Hearing the words, the Fairy Doctor was also shocked. An instant later, she shook her head: “That’s impossible. Only the two of us know about this place.”

“I have not misheard. There are quite a few people.” Xiao Yan looked at the Fairy Doctor with a terrible face. A coldness flashed in his eyes.

“You suspect that I have called these people over?”

Seeing Xiao Yan’s expression, anger erupted on the Fairy Doctor’s face. “Had I wanted to harm you, you would have died many times over.”

Seeing that the anger on the Fairy Doctor’s face appeared genuine, Xiao Yan pressed his eyebrows together and quickly turned around. He attempted to insert the key in his hand into the lock but in his anxiousness, he repeatedly failed to do so.

“Dammit!” Letting out a cry of anger, Xiao Yan grabbed the stone box with both hands in an attempt to lift it. Unfortunately, he found that the container was stuck onto the stone table.

“Stupid.” Xiao Yan once again scolded with an ashen face before slowly letting out a breath. In a cold voice, he said: “They are here.”

Hearing Xiao Yan’s words, the Little Doctor quickly directed her gaze towards the rock door. Her ears had also picked up the sound of footsteps approaching.

“Ke ke, Fairy Doctor. Thank you for leading the way. It seemed that the information we managed to get was true.”

Over ten figures slowly entered from the darkness outside the door while the familiar and pleased laughter echoed within the room.

“Mu Li!”

Upon hearing the voice, the Fairy Doctor immediately clenched her teeth tightly.

Chapter 118: Life or Death Escape

Outside the rock door, over ten figures slowly appeared, blocking the entrance..

Another figure strolled in from behind them. Under the light from the Moonstones, the figure's face was finally revealed to identify to the young leader of the Wolf Head Mercenary Company, Mu Li.

When his gaze initially swept over the piles of shiny gold at the corners, a greediness revealed in his eyes. He licked his lips before redirecting his gaze towards the two stone boxes that were opened by Xiao Yan, he smiled and said, "I'm sorry to disturb the both of you."

Xiao Yan slowly tightened his grip on the key in his hands. His face turned a little gloomy as he glanced at the frowning Fairy Doctor beside him coldly saying to Mu Li, "You followed us?"

"It cannot be considered as following. A few days ago, I had received information that the Fairy Doctor had found a treasure cave. Because I didn't know about the exact location..." Mu Li shrugged his shoulders and said.

"How did you get hold of this information? I have only told my assistant Li Fei about this. You... you bribed her?" A suspicion flew across the Fairy Doctor's face, but was quickly replaced by anger.

"Ke ke, that woman's pretty stupid. With just some sweet words, she obediently told me everything." Mu Li smiled, not denying the Fairy Doctor's speculation.

"You bastard!" With straightened eyebrows, the Fairy Doctor screamed.

"I'm sorry but these things here are too important to our Wolf Head Mercenary Company. Once we possess them, we would easily be able to absorb all the factions in Qingshan Town. When that time comes, we would have the ability to develop beyond the town. Our vision lies beyond this small little town." Mu Li said emotionlessly.

"Hand over the things to me. Fairy Doctor, you ought to very clear about

my feelings for you. As long as you are willing to become mine, I will definitely not mistreat you when I finally take over the Wolf Head Mercenary Company.” Mu Li gave the Fairy Doctor a gaze filled with emotion as he spoke in an increasingly gentle tone.

“Become yours? Just talking to you now repulses me!” The Fairy Doctor’s voice was mean as her red moist lips opened to mock him. It appeared that Mu Li’s act of bribing those around her had incited her fury.

A chill flashed across Mu Li’s eyes as he smiled and said softly, “It matters not. I will forcefully keep you by my side.” After saying these words, Mu Li shifted his eyes to the quiet Xiao Yan beside her and laughed, “I have already told you to join the Wolf Head Mercenary Company but you refused to listen to me. Now, it’s too late even if you wish to join.”

“A mercenary Company without even a Da Dou Shi is actually this arrogant?” Xiao Yan rubbed his nose and provokingly shook his head.

“At least it will be easy to kill you.” Mu Li revealed a smile that was full of killing intent.

“Hand the things over. I’ll let you die in one piece.” Mu Li coldly stared at Xiao Yan with his hands crossed over his chest.

Xiao Yan icily pulled his mouth. His gaze scanned over the badges on the chests of the ten odd mercenaries blocking the exit, getting a glimpse of their strength. These mercenaries all possessed the strength of a four or five star Dou Zhe while Mu Li was a six star Dou Zhe.

After weighing the opponent’s line-up in his heart, Xiao Yan’s heart sunk. At his current state, he could at the very most handle a four star Dou Zhe. If he removed the black heavy sword from his back, he should be able to hold his ground against a six star Dou Zhe.

However, there were currently over ten significantly strong mercenaries by the rock door. Under normal circumstances, if they attacked him as a group, Xiao Yan would very likely be killed with his current strength.

“Teacher?” Xiao Yan shouted for Yao Lao in his heart but received no

response. He could only smile bitterly. It seemed that it was impossible to get Yao Lao to help him get out of this mess.

Mu Li hugged his arm and stood at the middle of the rock door. His sinister looking face stared at the rapidly changing face of Xiao Yan and felt like a cat playing with a mouse.

“Although you have great potential, it has yet to be developed. Ah, to be honest, I’m afraid that you will seek revenge in the future. In order to avoid feeling worried about such a possibility, I will have to kill you here and now!”

Lightly tapping his fingers on his hand, Mu Li spoke with a smile. Since he was a child, his father had warned him, if possible, to kill anyone whom he had offended and not allow the other party to have any chance of returning to seek revenge.

Xiao Yan stared at Mu Li who was full of smiles and his eyes narrowed. In all these years, he was the one who had always bullied others but he had never witnessed this kind of group attack with the intention to kill.

“You are right. If I have the chance to leave, I would definitely create trouble for the Wolf Head Mercenary Company.” The corner of his mouth rose coldly as Xiao Yan spoke.

“It’s admirable that you are able to put on a strong front in such a situation. But you have only strengthened my intention to kill you.” Mu Li smiled as a killing intent flashed in his eyes.

Xiao Yan lifted his eyelids, revealing a similar killing intent in his eyes.

Just as Xiao Yan was considering how to escape, his hand that was behind him suddenly moved as something was shoved onto it.

Narrowing his eyes, Xiao Yan clenched his hand without anyone noticing as the corner of his eye randomly glanced at the Fairy Doctor who was closely standing beside him.

“This is the sedative from earlier.” The Fairy Doctor’s red lips moved slightly, emitting a faint voice into Xiao Yan’s ear.

Inclining his head slightly, Xiao Yan swept his gaze across the walls in the room. When he noticed the three Moonstones that were emitting a faint light, an idea was born in Xiao Yan's heart.

"Keep close to me." Xiao Yan instructed with a serious expression.

"Ah," The Fairy Doctor nodded her head obediently. At this moment, all her hope of escaping had been placed on Xiao Yan.

"Do it! Kill that boy! Remember not to hurt the Fairy Doctor. That is my woman." Watching the pair, Mu Li tensely waved his hand and ordered.

"Yes!" Having heard Mu Li's order, five of the ten odd mercenaries behind him instantly stepped forward and with a vicious expression charged at the pair.

Seeing that the rock door was still tightly blocked despite losing five men to attack, Xiao Yan frowned. These cautious mercenaries were giving him a headache.

"Bang!"

After glancing at the mercenaries charging at him, Xiao Yan extended his palm. The strong force threw the bag of sedatives into the air, which subsequently exploded. The scattered powder instantly covered the entire room.

"Hold your breath. Those at the door are not allowed to move. I want the door blocked. Ma Si, attack them!" Seeing the scattered medicinal powder, Mu Li's face changed as he quickly barked his orders.

Mu Li's orders caused the disturbance amongst the mercenaries to quickly calm down. The five mercenaries in the room took out their weapons from their waist and charged at Xiao Yan and the Fairy Doctor with fierce eyes.

Grabbing the Fairy Doctor with one hand, Xiao Yan withdrew further into the room. He then abruptly curled his hand, promptly sucking the Moonstone on the wall towards him. The Moonstone was detached from the wall and flew into Xiao Yan's hand.

Xiao Yan rotated his hand and the Moonstone was stored into the ring. Having lost one of its light sources, the entire room became darker.

After storing one of the Moonstones, Xiao Yan's face was serious as he shifted his gaze. His right hand sucked the remaining two Moonstones which were also quickly deposited into the storage ring.

When the last Moonstone was stored into the storage ring, the entire room became pitch-black.

At the moment when darkness descended, Xiao Yan pulled the Fairy Doctor's arm, spun around, and shot off in the direction of the exit that he recalled from his memory.

"Don't panic! Take out your fire sparks. Those at the door, do not move and those in the room do not come over. Remember, kill whoever that dares come towards the door.

The sudden darkness caused Mu Li's face to turn dark. However, he was impressively smart and made the right decision in a matter of seconds.

With a leader around, the Wolf Head Mercenary Company also calmed down. The mercenaries who had brought fire sparks quickly took them out. However, just as they were about to light them, a rushing wind swept across these mercenaries. This was followed by a palm carrying a ferocious force which smashed heavily onto their chest. Immediately, the few mercenaries who were unable to react in time let out a muffled cry and fell heavily onto the ground.

"He's coming! He's at the Rock Door! Quick, stop him!" The mercenaries who were attacked withstood their agony and shouted.

Hearing his subordinates yell, Mu Li's face once again darkened. He took a few hurried steps back and coincidentally ended up at the edge of the Rock Door, completely blocking the only path out.

"Bang!"

A strong and ferocious force shot from their front. Had the few five star Dou Zhe at the Rock Door not reacted in time, they would have been blown aside by it. While that had not happened, these few figures were

forced to stagger backwards a few steps nevertheless.

During the time the few figures were unsteady, two rushing winds secretly escaped from the gap within them. By the time these figures had recovered, it was far too late to stop the pair and they could only shout at Mu Li who was standing at the rear: “Young Company Leader! They are headed towards you!”

Mu Li narrowed his eyes and spread both legs, blocking the narrow tunnel with his body. He held his hand tightly together and a light green Dou Qi gradually flowed. Under the influence of the Dou Qi, his hands started to turn into the color of wood.

“I want to see how you as a two star Dou Zhes push me back in a direct confrontation.” With cold laughter, Mu Li pulled out a Night-luminescent Pearl and threw it forward. The faint light only had a radius of about two or three feet but was more than sufficient in this narrow tunnel.

Not long after he threw the Night-luminescent Pearl forward, two figures stepped over it at great speed. With the light from the pearl, Mu Li could see a blurry image of the killing intent on the Xiao Yan’s face.

“Get back!” Seeing Xiao Yan rushing towards him like a moth to a fire, Mu Li laughed with a chilly voice. His wood like fist that was surrounded by a green light, ruthlessly and furiously struck towards Xiao Yan while carrying an aggressive force.

“Low Xuan Dou Technique: Strength of the Woods!”

The Dou Qi headed towards him caused Xiao Yan’s face to shiver. He raised his eyes and could clearly see the sinister look in Mu Li’s eyes.

“Dammit.”

Xiao Yan scolded in his heart as he took in a breath. His hands then reached for the huge black sword on his back and lifted it with a cry. Rotating his wrist, he stored the sword into the storage ring,

With the disappearance of the huge sword, Xiao Yan’s speed exploded in the blink of an eye. The slow moving Dou Qi in him sudden gushed through his veins like a rising tide.

This was the first time Xiao Yan's Dou Qi erupted after having been suppressed. He tightened his fist and numerous veins began to vibrate. A frightening force was quickly being gathered.

Feeling the surging Dou Qi in his body, an intense urge to fight appeared on Xiao Yan's delicate and handsome face. His eyes chillily glanced at Mu Li, who was within reach. The Dou Qi within him began to follow the Qi Pathes predetermined by the Dou Technique and began to spin in an uncontrolled manner.

"Octane Blast!"

A shout echoed within his heart almost caused the sleeves on Xiao Yan's arms to tighten. The originally soft cloth had transformed into something as hard as metal.

The empty space under the sleeves contained an intense force as Xiao Yan pulled his fist back before throwing it forward with an explosive force.

"Bang!"

The two fists met under the narrow cave and the muffled, thunder-like sound reverberated throughout the tunnel for a long time.

Seeing that Xiao Yan was of equal strength as him, Mu Li's face changed. He did not expect that Xiao Yan's strength had increased by a few levels in the blink of an eye.

"I've stopped him. Hurry, kill him at any cost!" A cold and sinister roar vibrated from Mu Li's throat. The strength that Xiao Yan was currently displaying had caused this extremely scheming young Company leader to become anxious. Even at such a young age, this person was able to fight equally with himself, a six star Dou Zhe. It was difficult to imagine just how strong he would be in a few years time. If Xiao Yan was allowed to escape, the Wolf Head Mercenary Company would potentially face the possibility of destruction.

Just thinking of being taken revenge on with that overwhelming strength caused Mu Li's killing intent to surge.

Hearing Mu Li shout, the corner of Xiao Yan's mouth was raised mockingly. He moved his lips, "Explode!"

"Bang!"

Another muted explosion sounded. However, this explosion came from within Mu Li's body.

"Spoot!"

The sudden force that exploded in his body caused Li Mu face's to turn white in an instant. His whole body shook before finally violently coughing up a mouthful of blood.

"Go!" After striking Mu Li down, Xiao Yan forcefully resisted the urge to kill him. He promptly pulled the Fairy Doctor and without looking back, charged towards the dangerous cliff outside.

Immediately after Xiao Yan ran off, over ten mercenaries charged from within the rock room. Upon seeing the pale face Mu Li on the ground, aghast filled their faces. The six star Dou Zhe young company leader was actually beaten by that young man? This horrible reality before them caused them to be in momentary states of shock.

"Idiots, what are you standing there staring at? Go and chase him. We must kill that boy. Once we leave, release our signal and get those in the ambush outside to kill him!" Seeing the blank faces of his subordinates, Mu Li once again coughed up blood as he angrily cried.

"Yes!" Mu Li's cry prompted the mercenaries to recover from their shock as they hurriedly replied. After that, they faced the exit and hurriedly chased Xiao Yan and the Fairy Doctor.

With great difficulty, Mu Li pulled himself up and leaned against the rock wall as he let out a long breath. A sinister look appeared in his eyes. Clenching his fist tightly and punching against the rock, he said deeply, "Little bastard. You better not let me catch you. Otherwise, I will have you suffer a fate worse than death."

Xiao Yan expressionlessly pulled the Fairy Doctor along as he continued to charge towards the exit. The fist that he hid in his sleeves was covered

with fresh blood. This was the first time he had used the hidden force in 'Octane Blast' against an opponent after learning about it. The result was good beyond his expectation. However, his direct confrontation with Mu Li had also injured him slightly.

"Given Mu Li's scheming mind, he would have placed more Wolf Head Mercenary Company mercenaries on the top of the cliff." With a ragged breath, the Fairy Doctor reminded.

"Only by climbing up the cliff do we have the chance to lose ourselves in the forest and escape! Otherwise, death awaits us." Xiao Yan answered gloomily.

"After we exit the tunnel, don't climb the cliffs. If they cut our rope, we would fall to our deaths."

"Do you have another plan to escape if we don't climb up? Or do you intend to wait for the others to come out and kill us?" Xiao Yan frowned and said without stopping his footsteps.

The Fairy Doctor bit her red lips as if she had decided on something. Then she opened her mouth and said, "I can bring you away with me."

Xiao Yan's heart thumped and he became quiet.

"Don't be so wishy-washy. I won't harm you after you have helped me." Seeing Xiao Yan's hesitation, the Fairy Doctor could guess what this ever-careful guy was thinking and could only helplessly scold him.

Slowly releasing his breath, Xiao Yan slightly nodded.

Seeing Xiao Yan's agreement, the Fairy Doctor took out a short bamboo flute from her chest pocket and placed it on her mouth. When she lightly blew, a somewhat strange sound was emitted from the bamboo flute, passed through the tunnel and circled towards sky.

"What are you doing?" Watching the small exit ahead which was emitting a faint light, Xiao Yan could not contain his curiosity and asked.

"I'm calling my partner." Waving the bamboo flute in her hand, the Fairy Doctor smiled: "A First Ranked Blue Eagle."

“A flying Magic Beast?” Hearing her words, Xiao Yan felt a little suspicious. When he saw the Fairy Doctor nodded, joy floated onto his face. They were saved.

“Unfortunately, there was still one more stone box that was left unopened.” The Fairy Doctor closely followed Xiao Yan as she said regretfully.

“Forget it. Don’t be too greedy. If we have the chance in the future, we will take it back.” A chilly expression appeared on his face. “Ha ha, I was originally worried about the days of tough training ahead. Unexpectedly, these guys have provided some entertainment. Alright Wolf Head Mercenary Company, during the time that I will spend in the Magic Beast Mountain Range, I will play with you.” As he ran along the tunnel, the light from the exit became increasingly bright. A moment later, their surroundings suddenly brightened; the bright, silvery moon and the scattered stars appeared in their sight.

After appearing at the exit, Xiao Yan quickly pulled on the Fairy Doctor and leaned against the rock wall. His gaze stealthily scanned the top of the cliff and found many figures on it carrying torches and patrolling the area.

“There really is something awaiting us here.” Xiao Yan vented his anger before placing his ear on the ground. Immediately he said gloomily: “Our pursuers are arriving. Where’s that flying Magic Beast of yours.”

The Fairy Doctor’s eyes scanned the night sky. Once again, she placed the bamboo flute in her mouth. The strange sound silently spread across the sky.

“Screech!”

Not long after the whistle sound was released, a sharp screech sounded within the night sky.

With the help from the moonlight, Xiao Yan could see a blurred image of a large, old eagle with a lush blue colored body near the deep regions of the mountain ahead. It flew quickly and within a moment, was floating up from the lower edges of the cliff.

“Let’s go.” Seeing the arrival of the Blue Eagle, the Fairy Doctor let out a sigh and waved at Xiao Yan.

After Xiao Yan nodded, he turned around and saw a few figures within the cave. With a cold laugh, his hand hugged the Fairy Doctor’s narrow waist and leaped, landing on the back of the huge Blue Eagle.

“Xiao Lan, let’s hurry!” Once they were on the eagle’s body, the Little Doctor hurriedly urged.

Hearing the Fairy Doctor’s voice, Blue Eagle immediately flapped its wings. A huge gust of wind passed by with a ‘thud sound’. After which, together with the two people on its back, the eagle rose towards the sky.

“Shoot it down!” Gazing at the duo that had actually managed to mount the blue eagle, the ten plus mercenaries who had appeared at the cave entrance hastily shouted to their comrades on top of the cliff.

“Xiu, Xiu Xiu!”

TL: Sound of arrows.....

Hearing the shouts from below, the cliff top was in confusion for a moment, but soon after a rain of arrows suddenly flew across the sky, urgently aiming at the blue eagle.

As he gazed upon the rain of arrows, Xiao Yan’s was slightly alarmed but just as he was about to deflect them, the blue eagle below him suddenly shook its wings and a light green gale blew out, immediately causing the first wave of arrows to fall into the depths under the cliff.

As the Fairy Doctor squat down, the gale caused her long hair to be blown into a mess. With her lily-white hands gently stroking the blue eagle’s body, she smiled at Xiao Yan and said, “We are now safe.”

“Phew.....” Heavily sighing, Xiao Yan weakly sat atop the blue eagle’s body. Looking down to gaze upon the rapidly receding forest, he felt goosebumps all over his body; this was the first time that he had flown so high.

Xiao Yan wiped away the cold sweat on his forehead as he felt his whole

body go soft, the highly intense battle from before had left him extremely weary.

Seated atop the blue eagle, Xiao Yan looked down at the cave, staring intensely at Mu Li who was currently being supported by another mercenary at the entrance of the cave.

The two gazes met in the night skies, each of them smiling sinisterly, not bothering to hide the killing intent they had for each other.

As the blue eagle gradually flew away, Xiao Yan withdrew his death stare and turning his head to look at the Fairy Doctor, he asked, "Where do you plan to go?"

As her fingers tidied the few strands of fine hair on her forehead, the wind that blew directly at them caused the Fairy Doctor's clothes to outline her figure, revealing the splendid curves that had been hidden before.

"I am returning to the medicine collection group." The Fairy Doctor smugly said.

"You're still going back? That Mu Li could also be returning." Hearing her words, Xiao Yan asked, somewhat amazed.

"Chuckles, once I've returned to the medicine collection group, he will not dare to do anything to me." The Fairy Doctor lightly smiled as she said. With the reputation she had in Qingshan Town, Mu Li would not dare to make a move on her unless he wanted to incur the wrath of the mercenaries in town.

"Furthermore, once we return to Qingshan Town, he would even more so dare not to make a move. The power of Thousand Medicinal House is not weaker than that of the Wolf Head Mercenaries. In addition, the leaders of the other two big mercenary groups also owe me a favor."

"If it is like that, then do as you want." Lightly nodding his head Xiao knew how much popular the Fairy Doctor was from the gazes that the mercenaries used to look at the Fairy Doctor. Thus, he was not too worried about her safety.

“What about you?” Turning her head, the Fairy Doctor smiled as she inquired.

“Me? Heh heh, I am not returning. I do not have the kind of popularity that you do and if Mu Li wants to kill me, no one would step in to stop him. Moreover, given the power that I’ve shown, that kid would definitely try to find any means possible to kill me. Thus, I cannot return the the little town of Qingshan.” Xiao Yan chuckled as he tightly gripped onto the blue eagle’s feathers.

“You want to leave?” At these words, the Fairy Doctor somewhat hesitantly asked.

“Leave? Hei hei, I would never do such a thing as run with my tail between my legs. In the near future I will be training in the Magic Beast Mountain Range for a period of time, after which..... I will find the Wolf Head Mercenaries to slowly settle my debts.” Xiao Yan grinned viciously as he declared.

“The commander of the Wolf Head Mercenaries is a two star Dou Shi; if you plan on taking revenge, you need to be careful.” The Fairy Doctor was silent for a while before silently warning Xiao Yan.

“Relax, it’s not like I have never seen a mere Dou Shi before.” Leisurely moving his arms to and fro, Xiao Yan laughed out indifferently. At that time, even a Da Dou Shi like Jia Lie Bi had his clan crushed by Xiao Yan.

Seeing the confidence in Xiao Yan, the Fairy Doctor could only nod her head, not saying anything more. Turning her head, she directed the Blue Eagle to fly towards the mountains.

On the back of the eagle, as the mood gradually fell into silence, the duo slowly pondered on their exciting close brush with death.

“Hei hei, you little brat, not bad. To actually be capable of escaping that dangerous scenario at such a minimalistic cost, it has already somewhat exceeded my expectations.”

Just as Xiao Yan closed his eyes to recover Qi, Yao Lao’s satisfied laughter suddenly sounded out in his mind.

Having heard Yao Lao finally speak, Xiao Yan frowned before groaning to Yao Lao in his mind, "I thought that you had disappeared."

"Ha ha, brat, you are so petty. If I don't let you personally experience this kind of danger, how can your potential explode?" Yao Lao laughed heartily as he continued to speak, "Furthermore, how was the feeling of throwing off the restrictions?"

"Not bad." Xiao Yan rubbed his nose as he smugly said.

"Hei hei, do you want vengeance?" Yao Lao's laughter was like that of a treacherous old fox, filled with enticement.

"When have you ever seen me being bullied without any retaliation? Since that bastard wants me dead, how can I let him off?" Though Xiao Yan had a small smile on his face, there was a cold glint in his eyes.

"You've heard what the little miss said, the commander of the Wolf Head Mercenaries is a two star Dou Shi." Yao Lao laughed before continuing, "Thus if you want revenge, you need to advance to Dou Shi as fast as possible!"

"Of course, during this time I will be secretly training in the Magic Beast Mountain Range. No matter what kind of arduous training methods teacher uses, I will overcome them all." Xiao Yan shrugged his shoulders.

"Ha ha, good. Since you have this kind of determination, I will use the fastest method without any negative repercussions to make you a Dou Shi!" Yao Lao immediately became delighted when he heard Xiao Yan's words. Hate truly was the greatest medicine to advance a person's progress. After circling in the sky for a while, the eagle finally folded its wings upon landing on a hilltop.

"The Medicine Collecting Group area is under us and since you are not going back, I will place you here. Wait until tomorrow before you leave by yourself, is that okay?" Gazing at the bonfires below, the Fairy Doctor said as she turned her head to lightly smile at Xiao Yan.

"Okay." Xiao Yan smiled and nodded his head. He clasped both fists together and held them up to the Fairy Doctor and with a bright smile, he

replied, "Then let us part ways here, when we next meet, a long time may have passed."

"Yes." The Fairy Doctor's snow white chin lightly nodded as she slightly hesitated before finally retrieved a small bag of medicine and passed it over to Xiao Yan, "Though the effectiveness of this medicine powder is not huge, they should be just barely enough for your protection."

Receiving the bag which still held a trace warmth from her body, Xiao Yan felt somewhat moved. Truthfully, the Fairy Doctor and him were only strangers that met by chance; not to mention that he had also shamelessly taken half of the treasures that was meant to be solely hers. Although he saved her as they were escaping, in that kind of situation, any man would have done the same.

Xiao Yan rubbed his nose and smiled before nodding. He waved towards the Fairy Doctor and then turned around to walk towards the dark forest, "See you again. When we next meet, I will demolish that lousy mercenary group for both of us."

"Hehe, I will be waiting.." With a charming wink, the Fairy Doctor laughed out.

She watched as the youth's figure slowly faded into the darkness before turning her head towards the camp, uttering in a soft yet cold voice, "Mu Li, just wait and see. A woman's grudge is more terrifying than you could ever imagine."

TL: Her fury knew no bounds and her hatred would last for an eternity, all that would be left is a lingering thought which wondered what mercy was.

With an icy sneer, the Fairy Doctor once again leapt onto the Blue Eagle before slowly spiralling down and finally disappearing into the darkness of the night. As she slowly faded away, the first rays of dawn spilled out from the horizon, shining on the white tentage.

When the Fairy Doctor woke up from her sleep, she heard a disturbance outside her tent accompanied by a nauseating and familiar voice. A malicious intent stirred in her rosy and tiny smile and languidly getting off

her bed, she changed her clothes before slowly walking out of the tent.

Outside the tent, seven or eight mercenaries were currently tightly guarding the entrance. At this moment, these mercenaries were barring a young man from entering with solemn faces but when they saw the Fairy Doctor come out, they hastened to greet her.

“Chuckles, Young Master Mu Li, Why are you trying to barge into my tent so early in the morning?” As she graced the few mercenaries with a small smile, the Fairy Doctor slanted her head to smile at Mu Li who had a somewhat uncomfortable expression on his face.

“Haha, nothing much, it’s just that it’s getting late and I thought that I would come by to call the Fairy Doctor to continue on our journey.” Mu Li’s gaze swept around the area behind the Fairy Doctor and finding nothing, he wrinkled his brows together before smiling as he said.

Lightly nodding her head, the Fairy Doctor waved a hand to dispatch the few mercenaries. She took two steps forward and smiled while looking at Mu Li, “Young Master Mu Li, the mantis stalks the cicada unaware of the oriole behind, to be the oriole is such a great strategy.”

“What a pity that the mantis was too cunning.” Mu Li smiled, a coldness in his expression. Once again sweeping his gaze on the tent behind the Fairy Doctor as he coolly said, “I know that since you have returned here, I cannot do anything to you but my target is not you. Hand over Xiao Yan and I will not make things difficult for you anymore.”

“He left.” The Fairy Doctor spread out her hands and smiled as she said.

“Left?” Mu Li’s eyes withdrew as his expression turned even uglier.

“You could not possibly think that he would foolishly return to the campsite right?” With a sneer, the Fairy Doctor gazed at the surrounding mercenaries who had already woken up. These mercenaries were her protectors; as long as they were here, Mu Li would not dare to make a move on her.

“Wretch!” Mu Li swore, deeply taking in a breath, he cursed, “Since he entered the Magic Beast Mountain Range, he will meet an even swifter

end!”

The Fairy Doctor ignored his curse while the corners of her ruddy and small mouth slightly raised upwards, her beautiful eyes full of ridicule.

“Miss Fairy Doctor, we are almost done with the gathering of medicine ingredients, shall we return?” A member of the medicine collection group from the Thousand Medicinal House quickly walked up before respectfully reporting to the Fairy Doctor.

“Okay, let us set out.” The Fairy Doctor smiled as she inclined her head, sweeping her beautiful eyes over the entire camp. She suddenly said in a gentle tone, “Everyone, because the Wolf Head Mercenaries have met with some slight problems, I want to invite everyone to help take over their job of being my personal body guards, would this be possible?”

Having heard the Fairy Doctor’s words, the mercenaries, originally shocked, abruptly threw down the things in their hands and hastily rushed towards the Fairy Doctor in excitement.

Mu Li gazed at the Fairy Doctor who was happily arranging the mercenary squads, the corners of his mouth slightly twitching; he knew that this was the Fairy Doctor’s way of guarding against him.

After arranging her personal guards, the Fairy Doctor turned her head to look upon Mu Li who had yet to move from his original position. Smiling, she said, “Young Master Mu Li, when Xiao Yan was leaving, he asked me to help him pass you a message.”

“As long as he hands over everything he obtained in the cave, I can let go of the fact that he injured me.” Mu Li sneered and said.

“Haha, Young Master Mu Li, you are wrong. What Xiao Yan wanted me to tell you was that..... he will be back.....” With a gentle smile, the Fairy Doctor softly said.

The skin around Mu Li’s eyes tightened as he deeply spit out a sigh, a killing intent obvious on his brow. It was only a long while later before he icily nodded, “Good, as long as he is able to survive in the Magic Beast Mountain Range, I will await his vengeance!”

Done talking, Mu Li fiercely swung his sleeves in anger before bringing the few men under him to leave the place.

As she gazed at the leaving Mu Li, the smiling expression on the Fairy Doctor's charming face gradually changed as a familiar coldness flitted across those beautiful eyes. She used her fingers to sweep away the fine black hair across her forehead before suddenly lifting her head to look upon the tall mountain peaks behind her.

As the rays of dawn shone down onto the mountain peak, the proudly standing figure of a youth seemed visible.

Xiao Yan stood on the mountain peak as he gazed at the leaving mercenaries, twisting his head from side to side slowly. He firmly gripped his fist and sneered, "Son of a b*tch, just wait for me. This young master will remember everything that happened last night and when we next meet, I will make sure to doubly repay you!"

Deeply breathing in the fresh and cool morning air, Xiao Yan suddenly turned around and, carrying the black broadsword, he walked towards the dense forest without looking back. He knew that the true hardships had only just begun!

In the fresh and clean air of the forest, Xiao Yan was on his stomach while hiding in the grass; the dried leaves atop his body allowed him to be safely hidden, Making great efforts to suppress his breathing to the lowest extent, his breath seemed to completely vanish. His body as still as a rock while his eyes penetrated the grass and stared unwaveringly at the giant red wolf which was slowly walking towards his direction.

Today was already the second day since Xiao Yan separated from the Fairy Doctor. During these two days, he continued to travel towards the center of the Magic Beast Mountain Range. According to his speed, he should now be at the middle portion of the Magic Beast Mountain Range.

During these two days, Xiao Yan met more than ten attacks from Magic Beasts, of which he achieved two victories. As for the rest, they ended in him fleeing for his life. However, although he ran many times, the life and

death battles with the Magic Beasts helped Xiao Yan to emit a sense of genuine blood thirst....

These last two days, Xiao Yan had continuously tried to search for a training location that Yao Lao requested but had yet to find an appropriate location. Thus he could only continue to move about and brave the dangers from Magic Beast attacks as he continued his cautious ways of survival.

The giant red wolf in front of Xiao Yan was a matured rank one Fire Wolf. It's strength was comparable to that of a human six star Dou Zhe. In the many scuffles with Magic Beasts before, he had met a Fire Wolf before but because of the restrictions the heavy sword on his back placed him under, he ultimately ended up fleeing.

With a finger lightly touching the ground, Xiao Yan gazed at the giant red wolf which was already within hand's reach. His body suddenly slightly arched, maintaining his position for a little bit. Then, like a drawn bow, he shot out from the grass like a flash of lightning, causing the dried leaves to fly up and fill the air before slowly floating back down.

Xiao Yan's body passed through the falling leaves to arrive at the back of the giant wolf. Tightly clenching his fist, with a violent Qi energy, the fist smashed heavily onto the back of the giant wolf.

“Octane Blast!”

As the echoes of the inward shout faded, a huge Qi energy caused the giant wolf to whimper as its body was ruthlessly swept for over ten meters across the ground before finally smashing into a tree trunk. It's four limbs stiffened as it tried to fight back before eventually, unwillingly softening in defeat.

With the soles of his feet stepped heavily on the ground, Xiao Yan let out a long sigh. Having stayed in a creeping position for a long time, his arms and legs had become slightly numb. Twisting his head about, he quickly walked up and drawing the small dagger from his waist, he cut the giant wolf's head open. Suddenly, a tiny red crystal appeared before his eyes.

“Oh, Magic Core?”

Xiao Yan gazed distractedly at this red crystal. Soon after he happily extracted it, not caring even the slightest about the blood and gore. Cleaning it against his clothes, this was the first Magic Stone he had been rewarded within two days.

After removing the Magic Stone, Xiao Yan threw the wolf's corpse to one side. He lifted his head to try and gain his bearings before dashing towards the faint sounds of water.

Nimbly passing through layer upon layer of branches in the forest, Xiao Yan rapidly travelled for a short period before his line of sight suddenly widened before him. The rumbling sounds from a waterfall caused a wild glee to fill his face.

As he tread past the last giant tree, Xiao Yan could not help but take in a deep breath at the scene that appeared before his eyes.

Within Xiao Yan's view, a huge waterfall that looked like it was coated in a layer of silver furiously fell from the tall mountain peaks. The water smashed onto a giant stone causing vapor to fill the air...

On the two sides of the waterfall were a few precipitous mountain walls. On the mountain walls, each and every naturally formed cave caused Xiao Yan to be overjoyed; as long as he stacked up some rocks at the cave entrance, he could keep the Magic Beasts at bay, never again would he have to worry that he would find a savage poisonous snake by his side when he awoke from his training.

"Finally found the best training spot..... " Xiao Yan mumbled before he opened up his arms widely and deeply inhaled the air that was saturated with water vapor.

Rubbing his nose, Xiao Yan's palm turned as two scrolls appeared in his hand. These two scrolls were obtained by Xiao Yan in the cave and due to his dangerous circumstances for the past two days, he did not have the time to study them in detail. Now that he had found a safe haven, he could finally be at ease and start to study the scrolls.

Chapter 119: Purple Cloud Wings

Leaping across the valley, Xiao Yan leisurely headed towards the waterfall. His gaze cautiously scanned the surrounding area and only after finding that there were no Magic Beasts nearby, did he finally sigh in relief.

Arriving at the precipitous mountain wall, Xiao Yan took a long time in carefully selecting a cave that was four to five meters from him. Carefully climbing up the slippery rocks, Xiao Yan was just like an agile monkey and quickly spelunked into the cave he had previously selected.

It was somewhat cool within the cave and not too small: clearly more than enough for Xiao Yan to live here by himself.

Attentively sweeping his gaze over the floor inside the cave, Xiao Yan found no signs that a Magical Beast had ever been in the cave. With that he finally felt reassured. He gave the cave a quick cleaning before removing some camping supplies from his storage ring and building a soft and dry bed.

After setting up the essential items, Xiao Yan used a big rock to block the cave entrance such that only one person could pass through at a time. Since he would be spending many days here, safety concerns were of paramount importance..

Finishing these tasks, Xiao Yan clapped his hands together to remove the dirt on them. As he gazed at the somewhat dusky cave, he mused for a moment and then took out the three Moonstones that he had taken from the treasure cave and placed them in the grooves on the walls. Immediately the gentle light caused the cave to brighten up.

As he looked upon the completely new cave, Xiao Yan grinned and sat on the soft bed with a long sigh. Soon after, he crossed his legs and formed a training seal with both hands, slowly recovering the Dou Qi he had used up and the mental plus physical fatigue from the two days of continuous and hurried journeying.

As Xiao Yan fell into silence, his breathing gradually steadied and a

perfect cycle of his inhalation and exhalation was formed. Every time the breathing cycle alternated, faint threads of energy took shape in the air around Xiao Yan's body and followed Xiao Yan's breathing to flow into his body. And after his Qi Paths refined the energy, it was stored into the Qi Vortex in his lower abdomen.

As he silently trained, Xiao Yan's thoughts sunk into his body. With the amazing Inner View, he was able to distinctly see the Dou Qi that was flowing in his body.

His thoughts passed through several core Qi Paths before finally arriving at the lower abdomen area. As the foundation of the Dou Qi, the Vortex slowly spun as it appeared in his sights.

Once again viewing this miraculous Qi Vortex, Xiao Yan felt slightly gratified. After almost a year of training, the thumb-sized milky white Qi Vortex from the time when he had just advanced to become a Dou Zhe had changed to a light yellow color due to the Qi Method. Furthermore, it was much wider than before. Xiao Yan could clearly feel that the concentration of Dou Qi in the Qi Vortex was more than ten times stronger than it originally was.

Gazing at the light yellow Dou Qi that continuously flowed from the Qi Paths into the Qi Vortex, Xiao Yan faintly smiled as his thoughts slowly withdrew from the inside of his body. Only when the Dou Qi within his body had completely recovered did Xiao Yan open his eyes.

Lazily twisting his body, Xiao Yan's body once again felt refreshed. Tightly clenching his fist, Xiao Yan could sense that because of the recent bitter trainings, his current strength was slowly improving from its current state of a five star Dou Zhe towards that of a six star one. Perhaps in another month or two, he would be able to enter the six star level.

And when that time comes, if he removed the restrictions of the heavy sword and together with the few types of Xuan Level Dou Techniques, it was possible for him to contend against an eight star Dou Zhe. Of course this was only if the classes of the Dou Techniques that the eight star Dou Zhe was proficient in were below that of Xiao Yan's. After all, Xiao Yan's

Qi Method was that of the lowest level of Huang, this was his only weakness!

After recuperating his energy to normal levels, Xiao Yan flipped his palm and a black scroll appeared in his hand. This was the High Xuan flying Dou Techniques.

Soaring through the skies was every person's dream, and with regards to the thought of freely flying through the skies, Xiao Yan was likewise extraordinarily interested. Flying was the best way to escape. If they did not have the Little Fairy Doctor's blue eagle that night, the difficulty of the duo escaping from the heavily surrounded cliff would have risen sharply.

On the Dou Qi Continent, turning Dou Qi into wings was a right that only strong practitioners who were Dou Wang and above could have. For the rest, they could only gaze into the sky and sigh. Yet Xiao Yan had by chance obtained the rare flying Dou Techniques which could enable him to break away from the restrictions others had.

Grasping the scroll with both hands, Xiao Yan licked his lips and untied the string that bound the scroll before slowly unfolding it.

As the pitch-black scroll unfolded, two pitch-black eagle wings that caused him to slightly tremble appeared before his eyes. Since this pair of eagle wings were painted on the scroll, they were not too big. However they faintly emitted some warmth. Looking at this mysterious sight, it was obviously not just a simple picture.

The eagle wings were dark black in color with purple clouds faintly showing. If examined closely, the pair of wings was actually like black steel, possessing a special type of metal texture. The feathers on the eagle wings emitted a soft warmth and when Xiao Yan lightly blew on it, his expression could not help but become slightly alarmed. Under the light breeze, the feathers on the eagle wings unexpectedly swished up as if they were real. It was an extremely miraculous sight.

As his gaze swept across the eagle wings, Xiao Yan's eyes suddenly stopped at a line of words to one side and blinking his eyes, he softly recited the words out loud.

“Purple Cloud Black Fire Eagle, a rank five flying type Magic Beast. According to legends, it possesses the bloodline from phoenixes of ancient times. It’s flying speed is the fastest among all of the flying type Magic Beasts. By nature, it is both cunning and cruel, extremely hard to capture and only lives in the misty mountain areas at the north of the continent.”

“Rank five Magic Beast?” Shocked, Xiao Yan swallowed drily; that was no less than a Dou Wang human practitioner.

“The name of this Dou Technique is Eagle Wings, also known as Purple Cloud Wings. It took three years for me, the author, and a few friends to successfully capture a Purple Cloud Black Fire Eagle. Then, using a secret method to obtain both wings, we finally managing to create this scroll that allows one to learn a flying Dou Technique. Towards the end of my life, I made this Dou Technique using Dou Qi. Remember this, it can only be learnt by one person!

“What an audacious person, to actually dare to capture a Dou Wang level flying Magic Beast.....” Xiao Yan clicked his tongue twice as he exclaimed in surprise; somewhat curious at exactly what level of strength the person who had left behind these things was.

As his gaze moved away from the small words, Xiao Yan carefully stretched out a palm and lightly touched the pair of slightly violet, pitch-black eagle wings.

“Why does this feel..... as if it was the genuine article?”

The feel of feathers on his palm caused Xiao Yan to be greatly amazed. Once again gently caressed it with his palm when his expression suddenly changed. In a flash, he withdrew his hand and appalled, he hoarsely said, “There is a soul in these eagle wings?”

Xiao Yan’s spiritual perception was extremely outstanding and when he was touching the eagle wings, he could distinctly sense that a brutal and berserk soul was hidden within the eagle wings.

“Eh? There is indeed a hidden soul but it is a soul which lacks a conscious.” An aged and astonished voice suddenly sounded out from the ring on Xiao Yan’s finger.

“No conscious?” Dazed, Xiao Yan skeptically asked.

“I think that this was caused by the secret method used to make a flying type Dou Technique in the past. Oh, removing the flying type Magic Beast’s soul and wings from the beast before finally fusing them together, of course, this kind of fusion needs to be paired with a unique and secret method; only then can a true Dou Techniques be made..... No wonder flying Dou Techniques are no longer passed down now, the process of making the Dou Techniques requires you to know such an eccentric thing.” Yao Lao voiced out his thoughts as he laughed in a dull tone.

“Then..... there should be no negative effects from learning this thing right?” Xiao Yan asked somewhat apprehensively.

“The soul that you felt just now should belong to that Purple Cloud Eagle and after being worn down for so many years, all that’s left of it’s intelligence is the instincts of a wild beast. As long as one guards himself when using the scroll, there should be no problems.” Yao Lao laughed as he advised Xiao Yan.

Only after hearing Yao Lao’s words did Xiao Yan sigh in relief; he was indeed somewhat afraid that he would be controlled by the soul of the Purple Cloud Eagle if he practiced the Techniques, after all the intelligence of a rank five Magic Beast was not lower than that of a human’s.

Once again casting his gaze onto the black eagle wings on the scroll, Xiao Yan read through the instructions on the practice procedures a few times. Eyebrows slightly creasing, he softly said, “The scroll says that when practicing the Technique, the soul of the Purple Cloud Eagle within the wings will possibly attack the person who is practicing. If he is able to endure the attack of the soul, then he will be able to continue practicing. If not, that person should give up on practicing this technique.”

“Phew, looks like if I plan on practicing this flying Dou Technique, there will be some danger.” Xiao Yan spit out a breath before helplessly sighing.

“Naturally, to obtain something, one must pay the price.” Yao Lao said in a serious tone as he smiled and continued, “Given the strength of your

soul, you don't need to worry too much about being attacked by the soul of the Purple Cloud Eagle. Although it was once rank five, it is now just a damaged soul which cannot do much."

At these words, Xiao Yan slightly inclined his head. Soon after, he gritted his teeth and finally made his resolution while slowly stretching forth his palms.

Both palms moved onto the scroll and lightly pressed on the soft wings, Xiao Yan took a deep breath and unhurriedly closed his eyes.

Shortly after Xiao Yan laid his palms on the wings, from within the eagle wings, the tyrannical eagle soul suddenly roared out with a piercing chirp that caused souls to tremble. The chirp penetrated through the scroll and followed the path through Xiao Yan's palms and like a drill, it desperately hammered at his mind.

This was the first time Xiao Yan had experienced an attack by a soul; his body suddenly trembled as his complexion turned several shades whiter.

"Concentrate, shield your mind, let it attack!" From within the ring. Yao Lao shouted out.

Gritting his teeth as he nodded, Xiao Yan's spiritual perception formed itself into a few layers of protection around his mind, allowing him to finally be able to resist the piercing attack on his soul.

As if it could see that the chirp of the soul had no effect, the soul of the Purple Cloud Eagle lapsed into silence for a moment before a brutal presence abruptly forced its way through the scroll burrowing straight into the depths of Xiao Yan's thoughts.

"Steady your thoughts, do not let it control your emotion. Or else you will be reduced to a beast that only knows how to kill!" Yao Lao's heavy voice sounded out at this appropriate moment.

Once again deeply sighing, Xiao Yan tightly guarded his thoughts, not daring to let that brutal presence invade to even the slightest degree.

This exchange between souls continued for over ten minutes before the Purple Cloud Eagle slowly withdrew in defeat. Though Xiao Yan's strength

was far from being able to match up to a grade five Magic Beast, after being suppressed for countless years, currently, there was already no difference between this Purple Cloud Eagle and a crippled wild beast.

When the wild beast like brutal presence finally withdrew from the tides of his thoughts, Xiao Yan's aching body immediately collapsed. His pale face looked extremely tired. This kind of soul clashing was much more draining than a clash of physical bodies.

"Is this considered a success?" Xiao Yan asked as he wiped the sweat from his brow.

"Yes, you now possess the qualifications to practice this Technique."

Xiao Yan felt gratified at these words, laughing, he once again placed both palms on the eagle wings. This time, he did not receive an soul attack and pursing his lips, the Dou Qi within Xiao Yan's body followed the instructions on the scroll as it slowly started to flow. A moment later, the Dou Qi in Xiao Yan flowed into his arms and gradually entered into his palms.

When the Dou Qi appeared at the center of the palm, the eagle wings on the black scroll suddenly lit up; violet and black. They shined brighter and brighter before finally turning into two rays of tiny purplish black light as they entered into Xiao Yan's palm.

After the two rays of tiny, purplish-black light entered into Xiao Yan's body, they followed the Qi Paths and flowed until they reached the Qi Paths in Xiao Yan's back before they abruptly stopped and turned around to unexpectedly force their way through to carve two tiny new paths.

These two new Qi Paths grew from the main Qi Paths and only when they reached out to create an exit at the back of the body, did they slowly stop their growth.

On the outside world, Xiao Yan was still distracted by the disappearance of the eagle wings, suddenly he let out an intense scream while sweat started pouring down his forehead as he gripped both fists tightly together. Heavily gasping, he hissed, cursing, "What is this damned thing doing?"

His body curled up as he lay on the bed, Xiao Yan bit his lip causing a stream of blood to flow out of his mouth. After enduring for a moment longer, Xiao Yan could finally no longer take the pain of his Qi Paths tearing themselves apart and thus he lost consciousness.

Chapter 120: Purifying Demonic Lotus Flame

When Xiao Yan regained consciousness, he felt a faint pain all over his body, much like being pricked all over by needles. He stroked the storage ring on his finger and withdrew a small jade bottle. Tilting the bottle, he dripped a few drops of pink liquid into his mouth.

After consuming the pink liquid with numbing properties, Xiao Yan felt the prickling pain all over his body slowly disappear. He sat up and picked up the black scroll, only to realize that all the words and the drawing of the eagle wings had disappeared.

Xiao Yan stared at the empty scroll and blinked his eyes in confusion. Suddenly, he stripped and took out a piece of crystal mirror from the storage ring and, with the help of the reflected light, he noticed that a pair of palm-sized black eagle wing tattoos had unknowingly appeared on his back.

“Are these the Purple Cloud Eagle Wings’?” Xiao Yan mumbled to himself in a somewhat uncertain voice. The Dou Qi in his body flowed towards the two Qi Paths that had been forcefully created and into the tattoo on his back.

Upon receiving the transmitted Dou Qi, the pitch-black tattoo immediately emitted a faint purple light. Finally, it transformed into a solid pair of wings. The size of the black eagle wings also expanded from palm-sized to about half a foot in length.

Xiao Yan curiously looked at the pair of eagle wings with purple lines as he thought of moving them. A small lifting force was created under his body but it was far too small to lift him off the ground.

“In order to fly using the Purple Clouds Wings’, it will require a large amount of Dou Qi. With your current strength and your lack of practice controlling the wings, I’m afraid that you can only glide over a short distance.” Seeing the somewhat comical actions of Xiao Yan, Yao Lao

could not help but laugh.

Xiao Yan grinned and nodded his head. From the beginning, he did not expect to be able to fly immediately. The slight result he currently had was already very satisfactory. After all, everything had to be done slowly.

When Xiao Yan stopped transferring the Dou Qi, the eagle wings on his back once again nestled up on his back and transformed back into the pitch-black tattoo of a pair of eagle wings.

Xiao Yan gradually and lazily stretched his back before keeping the blank black scroll in front of him. A brief silence followed. Then he once again took out another extremely old scroll from the storage ring.

After sizing up the ancient looking yellowish scroll, Xiao Yan rubbed his hands together. For the ancient elder to hide this in a secretive place like between the gap of a bone, it was very likely that this was no ordinary item.

Xiao Yan untied the scroll before slowly spreading it. When he saw the interior, however, he froze slightly. "What's this?"

Before his eyes was a parchment made of an unknown material which was slightly yellowed. On it, there was many lines that appeared to be drawn without any form or order. Xiao Yan slowly traced one of the lines with his finger but found nothing as it finally reached the edge of the parchment.

"What kind of nonsense is this?" Xiao Yan said with a frown as he stared at this secretive item that held a talisman-like appearance.

TL: The talisman refers to a taoist talisman

The black ring on his finger trembled slightly and Yao Lao appeared. The latter swept his gaze over the ancient looking parchment, pressed his eyebrows together and said in a deep voice, "It seems...like a fragment of a map."

"Map? And a fragmented one?" Hearing Yao Lao words, Xiao Yan rolled his eyes. His interest immediately died.

Ignoring Xiao Yan's disinterest, Yao Lao slowly spread out the entire parchment and studied it carefully. When his gaze landed on the bottom corner of the parchment where the blurry image of something that appeared like a Lotus, his face suddenly changed. Once again, he bent down and carefully studied the Lotus shaped mysterious drawing.

The Lotus shaped object appeared faintly yellow and blurry, possibly a result of its age. However, its general appearance was still visible.

The entire Lotus was black, with a thin black flame appearing to coagulate on the surface. When looked upon seriously, the entire Lotus gave one a demon-like feeling.

"Teacher, have you found something?" Xiao Yan was slightly shocked after witnessing Yao Lao's manner. After being with him for so long, this was the first time that he had seen Yao Lao revealing such a demeanor.

"This...don't tell me that this is the 'Purifying Lotus Demon Flame'?" After staring intently at the strange black Lotus and studying it carefully, Yao Lao suddenly mumbled in astonishment.

"Purifying Lotus Demon Flame?" Xiao Yan blinked his eyes uncertainly before an idea finally struck him. He probed, "Is this a Heavenly Flame?"

"Yes. This is one of the Heavenly Flames and it is the most mysterious one amongst the Heavenly Flames Ranking." Yao Lao nodded his head in a serious manner as he spoke in a deep voice.

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"The 'Purifying Lotus Demon Flame' is ranked third on the Heavenly Flames Ranking. It has the special ability to cleanse everything. Any object that is slightly exposed to it would be cleansed into nothingness, an extremely frightening strength. This kind of Heavenly Flame is extremely rare with only around two or three flowers of it existing, but no one has an idea about where they are. I don't know who actually recorded their existence but nobody has ever seen this flame. The only reason that I could recognize it was because I had luckily found some rough clues about it when I was looking for Heavenly Flames. Tsk tsk. don't tell me that this map would lead the way to a 'Purifying Lotus Demon Flame'?" Yao Lao

exclaimed as he stared at the ancient looking parchment with shock.

“It’s too bad that this is only a map fragment. With such vague information, we have no hopes of finding it.” Xiao Yan’s interest had spiked but when he recalled that it was only a fragment of a map, he felt regretful.

“It is already quite lucky to find this little piece of information about the ‘Clean Lotus Demon Flame’. Even if you managed to find the flame now, you do not have the ability to do anything about it. Let’s take things slow. You may find the other map fragments in the future.” Yao Lao smiled and said, “If you can successfully swallow the ‘Purifying Lotus Demon Flame’, it is difficult to predict just what level your ‘Flame Mantra’ would evolve to.”

“Isn’t the highest the High Tian Level?” Xiao Yan spread his hands and muttered.

“That may not be true.” Yao Lao laughed softly before suddenly becoming silent. He waved his hand and said in a bland voice, “The Dou Qi continent is very huge. Once you have reached a certain level, you would naturally realize just how big it is. For the current you, it is better to honestly climb from the bottom. Don’t forget that just a small Wolf Head Mercenary Troop was enough to cause you to be badly battered.”

Xiao Yan eyed the mysterious Yao Lao and helplessly nodded his head. He rubbed his lips together and said, “Who doesn’t climb from the bottom?”

Yao Lao smiled and with a slight quiver, turned into a stream of light which returned into the ring. As he did so, he laughed one last time, “Rest for today. From tomorrow onwards, we will begin the training!”

Hearing this, Xiao Yan touched his face and grinned, “I’m looking forward to it.”

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The warm sunlight shined upon the land. Under it, the huge waterfall surged forward with all its might, finally turning into a silvery line as it

rushed down from the cliff like a furious dragon. Instantly, a roar reverberated throughout the small valley.

Standing under the waterfall, Xiao Yan took in a deep breath of the moist air. He raised his head and watched the towering huge waterfall. Within his chest, his heart could not help but tremble.

In the empty land behind Xiao Yan, dozens of wooden poles were affixed into the ground. About two meters above them, there were another ten plus wooden logs that hung from the tall branches, swaying in all directions when the fierce wind blew.

The black ring trembled slightly and Yao Lao unsteadily came out of it. He smiled and nodded when he noticed the dozens of wooden logs. With a slightly apologetic gaze, he looked at Xiao Yan, pointed to the wooden logs and smiled, "Every morning from now on, you will be training on these logs. I will manipulate these hanging logs to attack you. You must dodge them and you are not allowed to remove the heavy sword. Oh, I almost forgot.. you have already started calling it 'Heavy Xuan Ruler'... When you dodge, you are not allowed to remove the 'Heavy Xuan Ruler'. On top of this, you are not allowed to use 'Vacuum Hand' or 'Fire Palm'.

Hearing this, Xiao Yan inclined his head slightly, his face filled with eagerness. He was fairly confident about his dodging speed.

"Do you want to try?" Seeing Xiao Yan's expression, Yao Lao suddenly smiled and said. The smile was somewhat crafty.

"If you are willing to."

Shrugging his shoulders, Xiao Yan's feet stepped off the ground, propelling his body elegantly onto one of the wooden logs. His tall frame gave him a slight superior disposition as he waved his hands at Yao Lao and said, "Come. Let me see just how tough this thing that Teacher designed really is."

"You have a good attitude. Let me see how many logs you can withstand." Nodding with a smile, Yao Lao waved his sleeve. A strong gale rushed forth from the sleeve. Immediately, one of the ten plus wooden logs swaying randomly in midair hurtled towards Xiao Yan.

The faint pressure emitted from the hurling wooden log caused Xiao Yan's face to become serious. His eyes locked onto the approaching wooden log before he suddenly bent over. The wooden log was close to his back as it dangerously flew past him.

Before he had time to recover from bending down, another wooden log shot towards him. Xiao Yan stepped onto the wooden pole beneath his feet and tried to jump up to dodge the wooden log. His face suddenly changed when he realized that the foot he had used to step on the wooden pole appeared to be stuck to it.

The unexpected change shook Xiao Yan up. However, his mental strength was quite good. He freely manipulated the Dou Qi in his body and quickly transferred it to his foot. Once again, he stepped heavily and his leg was finally freed. At the same time, he dodged two other wooden logs that were headed for him.

Although Xiao Yan managed to dodge the attack, his legs were stuck to a wooden pole when the fifth wooden log came hurtling towards him. Finally, it ruthlessly knocked him off the wooden pole.

Watching the moaning Xiao Yan on the ground, Yao Lao asked with a smile, "How was it?"

"What did you do to the wooden poles?" Xiao Yan rubbed his swelling chest as he groaned.

"The wooden poles are covered with black glue. Each time you move, you need to use Dou Qi to overcome the stickiness. Otherwise, you won't dodge in time and be knocked out. Therefore, you will need to continuously maintain the flow of Dou Qi in your body while dodging. After maintaining this state for a long time, you will gain a lot." Yao Lao faintly smiled.

"This thing here is meant to train your agility and your control of Dou Qi..." Yao Lao turned around, pointed to the wooden poles and smiled.

Chapter 121: Promotion to Six Star

The surging waterfall angrily smashed against the rocks as the resulting water vapor enveloped the small valley.

On the empty ground beneath the waterfall, a topless young man carrying a strange looking black sword was dodging whizzing attacks from wooden logs with a serious face. The occasional leaping and swift dodging that he performed was as nimble as a monkey. Under the sunlight, his tall strong body appeared to be relaxed.

A month had passed since Xiao Yan had arrived at the valley. During this period, Xiao Yan spent most of his time on the wooden poles, which resulted in many injuries and bruises on his body that came from being knocked down by these wooden logs.

Naturally, with effort comes reward. The current Xiao Yan was already able to dodge around twelve wooden logs at the same time. This was a great improvement compared to a month ago when he met a shameful end under five wooden logs.

On a huge rock outside the wooden log area, Yao Lao was seated with a smiling gaze as he observed the young man continuing to dodge in between the twelve wooden logs. He nodded slightly and swung his sleeve. One of the last three wooden logs hanging in midair suddenly rushed at Xiao Yan ferociously.

The unexpected attack promptly broke the equilibrium that Xiao Yan and the twelve wooden logs had. The little gaps that Xiao Yan could use were entirely blocked by the newly added wooden log.

Xiao Yan's face turned serious as his eyes stared intently at the thirteen wooden logs that were coming at him from all directions. In the next moment, a wooden log neared his body, carrying an intense wind pressure that caused Xiao Yan to hold his breath.

Releasing a deep breath, the Dou Qi in Xiao Yan's body surged forth as he tilted his body and dodged the two wooden logs that were headed for him.

Before he could recover from the angle which he used to dodge, Xiao Yan feet suddenly stepped on the wooden pole, allowing his body to jump to another wooden pole. He moved his head slightly back as another wooden log dangerously flew past his ears.

After one month's adaptation, Xiao Yan's dodging speed had far surpassed what it was a month ago. Although the twelve wooden logs' continuous chain of attacks were always perilously and narrowly avoided, it was difficult for any of them to actually hit his body.

The strong pressure that the wooden logs carried as they narrowly passed him caused pain to well up on Xiao Yan's skin. However, he did not dare use any Dou Qi to protect his body. At such a moment, every thread of Dou Qi must be used at the most appropriate place. Otherwise, once his Dou Qi was exhausted, what awaited him was the terrible end of being knocked off the poles. Such an ending was what had been accompanying him during this period of time.

A Low Huang Qi Method was far too insufficient to support any squandering by Xiao Yan. Hence, he needed to be extremely thrifty when deciding how each thread of Dou Qi was to be spent.

"If only the Qi Method could evolve. Then I would not need to be so 'thrifty'..." Xiao Yan could not help but think after dodging the eleventh wooden log.

Just as the wooden log skimmed passed Xiao Yan, the twelfth wooden log came shooting towards him. However, Xiao Yan, who was already prepared, turned his feet on the wooden log. Only his toes were hooked onto the wooden log as he inclined his entire body at a strange angle.

"Schfwaff..." the wooden log whizzed passed him with just a mere half an inch of space. The sharp wind caused Xiao Yan to grimace in pain.

When the tail of the twelfth wooden log passed him, Xiao Yan's face changed. Behind him was another log that was headed for him at an even faster speed and with greater strength.

In order to adapt to the twelve wooden logs' attack, Xiao Yan had to spend over twenty days to grasp their timing and attacking orbit. The

thirteenth log that Yao Lao added had caused him to be at a loss.

Feeling the approaching wind, Xiao Yan slowly let out a breath in his heart. He suddenly closed his eyes at that moment and listened to the sound of the pressuring wind behind him. The sweat pores on Xiao Yan's back swayed like tentacles.

With the help of the pressuring air, a faint image tracing the wooden log's attack appeared in the mind of the close-eyed Xiao Yan. In this timeless mental space, Xiao Yan managed to completely trace the orbit of the attack and the strength it possessed. The best position to dodge it naturally surfaced in his mind.

In the real world, Yao Lao's eyes brightened when he saw Xiao Yan suddenly closing his eyes. In a somewhat shocked soft voice, he whispered, "This little boy actually knows how to use his spiritual perception?"

When the wooden log appeared in his mind, Xiao Yan's body became strangely distorted. His two hands hugged his head and his body fell in an upright manner. At the moment he fell, the huge wooden log narrowly passed by his face; the pressuring wind caused Xiao Yan's ears to swell slightly.

After hazardously dodging the thirteenth wooden log's attack, Xiao Yan's feet stepped on the side of a wooden pole, shooting his body upwards and finally landing on the ground. He grabbed his clothes and carelessly pulled them over his body.

Xiao Yan let out a breath and, before hearing Yao Lao's words, sat upright on the ground and immediately took out a small bottle from his storage ring. He tilted the mouth of the bottle and two medicinal pills rolled out.

"Huh. have I consumed all the 'Energy Recovery Pills'? It looks like I will have to go and pick some medicinal ingredients."

Seeing that there were only two pills remaining, Xiao Yan helplessly shook his head. He placed one of them in his mouth and quickly went into his training form.

Seated on the ground, Xiao Yan swiftly entered the training mode. After months of training, he knew that the time after his Dou Qi was exhausted was the best time to train. At this time, all the cells and muscles in his body were far more greedy for Qi than usual.

Following his entrance into training mode and his calm breathing, a faint energy flow spiraled around Xiao Yan's body. Any energy that came into contact with his skin was greedily consumed, much like a liquid being absorbed by a sponge.

As the training continued, the energy surrounding Xiao Yan's body grew increasingly dense without any sign of diminishing.

Yao Lao tapped his finger on the rock as he calculated Xiao Yan's training time. His eyebrows suddenly jumped; the time Xiao Yan took for training was slightly longer than usual.

According to Yao Lao's calculations, the Dou Qi storage space in Xiao Yan should be approximately full. However, he noticed that Xiao Yan still showed no sign of stopping...

"Don't tell me... he is about to break through and become a six star Dou Zhe?"

Yao Lao paused his tapping motion and softly spoke with a smile, "Not bad. My baseline was one and a half months to reach a six star Dou Zhe. But it appears that this boy managed to save half a month. It looks like the fight in the forest a while ago had benefited him significantly."

Staring intently at Xiao Yan who had his eyes closed, the sharp eyed Yao Lao found something amiss. He frowned. "He is a little forceful in his breakthrough. It looks like a little external help is needed."

After being silent for a while, Yao Lao lifted his finger and a wisp of air shot from his finger. It hit Xiao Yan's head and instantly knocked him out of his training state.

With his training disrupted, Xiao Yan immediately opened his eyes and glared angrily at Yao Lao. This kind of opportunity to breakthrough was not something that could be easily encountered.

“Stupid. Had you continued to forcefully breakthrough, you would have to take a month to fully recover even if you did successfully become a six star Dou Zhe.”

Hearing this, Xiao Yan promptly languished. Exchanging a month's worth of time for a breakthrough was clearly a losing proposition. Sighing, Xiao Yan regretfully wailed, “What a good opportunity.”

Rolling his eyes, Yao Lao opened his mouth and scolded, “I didn't say there was no chance. Get onto the wooden poles immediately. I will use all fifteen wooden logs!”

“Fifteen?” Pulling the corner of his mouth, Xiao Yan wanted to point his middle finger at Yao Lao. His limit was thirteen wooden logs; if there were fifteen wooden logs, he would be instantly knocked off of the wooden poles.

“Idiot, don't you know to remove the Heavy Xuan Ruler?” Eyeing Xiao Yan who was staying put and refusing to get on the wooden poles, Yao Lao could neither smile nor cry as he scolded, “All you require now is an opportunity and you would be able to successfully breakthrough. Stop procrastinating!”

Hearing that he could remove the Heavy Xuan Ruler, Xiao Yan's eyes brightened. He bent his legs and with a low groan, he grabbed the ruler's handle and pulled it off with his strength before stabbing it into the ground.

Once the Heavy Xuan Ruler left his body, Xiao Yan felt that his body appeared to be floating. The Dou Qi inside him exploded like a volcanic eruption and surged through his Qi Paths. A feeling of increased strength spread throughout Xiao Yan's body accompanied with the continuous cracking sound of his bones.

Once again Xiao Yan felt as if he had been reborn. This feeling was like taking a sip of water on a hot day. All of his pores emitted a relaxed feeling that came from deep within him.

Stepping lightly on the ground, Xiao Yan felt that his body was as light as feather. He raised his head and watched the fifteen wooden logs that

were hanging in midair. Grinning, he stepped off the ground, shot his body onto a wooden pole like a cannonball and stood upright.

“Come!”

Xiao Yan spread his arms and waved at Yao Lao. After being relieved of his burden, he was confident that he could withstand being attacked by fifteen wooden logs simultaneously.

“Good attitude.”

Seeing that Xiao Yan’s confidence had grown, Yao Lao smiled. With a wave of his sleeve, a violent wind blew and the fifteen logs shook. A moment later, they were accompanied by a ferocious force as they rushed at Xiao Yan from all directions.

Watching the wooden logs that were smashing through the air towards him, Xiao Yan pursed his lips. His feet stepped lightly on the wooden pole and proactively moved towards it.

Under the control of Yao Lao, the fifteen wooden logs above the wooden poles formed an attack without any gaps. Under their simultaneous attacks, a strong wind blew the leaves and grass off the ground and scattered them in the air.

Without the burden of the Heavy Xuan Ruler, Xiao Yan’s speed increased by over two times. The dodging motion of his body appeared totally natural and the black glue under his feet was no longer able to slow him down.

Under the heavy attacks, the figure of the young man on the wooden poles continuously appeared and disappeared. The fifteen wooden logs repeated attacks were totally evaded by Xiao Yan who had been relieved of his burden,

Seeing Xiao Yan astutely dodging within the training ground, Yao Lao nodded his head. A hint of admiration briefly appeared in his old eyes; Xiao Yan’s performance without his burden had exceeded his expectation.

After the last wooden log was precariously dodged by Xiao Yan, the ten plus wooden logs that were shaking unsteadily in midair suddenly

stopped.

Slowly letting out a breath, Xiao Yan stood like a stilt on a wooden pole as he swallowed the last 'Energy Recovery Pill'. After a brief silence, a faint energy flow suddenly and strangely swarmed around him and wildly flowed into his body.

As more and more energy was poured into Xiao Yan, a pale yellow light appeared on his body. His delicate and handsome face was like a piece of warm jade and after a while, he opened his eyes, revealing an essence like light in his pupils.

After taking a long and deep breath, Xiao Yan tilted his head and eyed Yao Lao behind him. His face was filled with a brilliant smile.

"I've broken through!"

Hearing this, Yao Lao smiled and nodded. His gaze carried some satisfaction.

Upon breaking through to a six star Dou Zhe, Xiao Yan's strength was once again enhanced significantly. Additionally, he was also able to dodge all fifteen wooden logs with the Heavy Xuan Ruler on his back after another three days of training. This obvious improvement caused him to smile widely.

Having become accustomed to the attack by fifteen wooden logs, Xiao Yan was finally able to avoid being bruised all over like he had been in the past when training against the logs. The peaceful days that followed gave Xiao Yan great joy.

.....

Under the dense cover of trees, Xiao Yan walked with the Heavy Xuan Ruler on his back. His gaze continued to sweep around him. After the day's training was over, he had come out of the valley to look for the medicinal ingredients for the 'Energy Recovery Pill'.

The 'Energy Recovery Pill' was something extremely important to Xiao Yan's training. With it, he could save more than half the time he need to recover his Dou Qi. Most importantly, time was something that Xiao Yan

currently needed.

Although Xiao Yan had finally become a true first tier alchemist with the growth of his strength, the 'Energy Recovery Pill' was a second tier medicine that he, with the ability of a first tier alchemist, could not refine. Hence, refining the 'Energy Recovery Pill' was something that he had to rely on Yao Lao for.

Additionally, the medicinal ingredients needed to refine the 'Energy Recovery Pill' were quite rare. Back then in Wu Tan City, Xiao Yan could only find enough medicinal ingredients to refine ten pills. Under normal circumstances, just finding the medicinal ingredients would consume a significant amount of Xiao Yan's time.

However, Xiao Yan could sigh in relief as this was the Mystical Beast Mountain Range where there was an abundance of medicinal ingredients. Out of the five medicinal ingredients needed to refine the 'Energy Recovery Pill', four had been found by Xiao Yan in significant quantity. If he could find the last and the most important ingredient, 'Red Spiritual Recovery Fruit', a sufficient number of pills could be refined for Xiao Yan's use.

The 'Red Spiritual Recovery Fruit' usually grew in places where energy was dense. Of course, this was not always a given but it was better for Xiao Yan to search along the lines of this clue than to blindly look for it.

Relying on his outstanding spiritual perception, Xiao Yan could vaguely feel the surrounding energy abundance and rough positions of high energy places. His current path was headed towards a place where he sensed the energy was the most dense at.

Noon was a time that the Magic Beasts seldom roamed around. Understanding this, Xiao Yan picked this time to search for the medicinal ingredients. During his journey, he rarely met any Magic Beast roaming in search of food. The one or two of them that he occasionally found were avoided when he detected them.

Xiao Yan's figure quickly passed through the cover of some bushes. Following which, a small pile of rubble became visible to his eyes. Behind

the pile of rocks was a mountain wall with green ivy creeping all over it.

Eyeing the pile of rubble, Xiao Yan rubbed his hands. From his spiritual awareness, the energy that was aggregated around that area was the densest in the surrounding region.

Xiao Yan's gaze, which was focused on the pile of rubble, was slowly sweeping the area and a moment later, it paused on a purple colored sapling on the mountain wall. The sapling grew from within the mountain wall. On it, green and red colors were interwoven because hiding under the green leaves were stealthily hidden red fruits that were emitting a faint fragrance.

"Red Spiritual Recovery Fruit..." Staring at that sapling, Xiao Yan smiled and heaved a sigh of relief. After searching for two days, he had finally found it.

The medicinal ingredient he needed was just in front of him but Xiao Yan did not hurry out. He knew that where there was a dense energy and rare medicinal herbs, there was likely a Magic Beast guarding it.

Xiao Yan's eyes cautiously swept across his surroundings but did not find the trace of any Magic Beast. He frowned. After another brief silence, Xiao Yan slowly left his hiding place when he found no sign of any Magic Beast appearing. Then he slowly and carefully headed for the purple-colored small tree.

As his footsteps approached the tree, a cold feeling suddenly appeared in his heart. He halted his footsteps and pressed his eyebrows together before turning around and running.

"Bang!"

Just as Xiao Yan turned around, a huge white figure suddenly descended the peak of the mountain wall, smashing onto the ground. Like a small hill, it completely blocked Xiao Yan's path of retreat.

Seeing the sudden appearance of a huge Magic Beast, Xiao Yan felt a chill run down his spine. His body froze on the spot, not daring to move.

The beast that had appeared before Xiao Yan was a huge white Magic

Ape. This Magic Ape was around two to three meters tall and its entire body was covered by long, snow-white hair. Its white fangs extended out of its sinister, huge mouth. From its pair of blood red eyes, a brutal killing intent was being emitted.

Xiao Yan's eyes scanned the Magic Ape's white body and took in a cold breath. "A rank two Magic Beast, Blizzard Magic Ape?"

"Bang, Bang!"

The Magic Beast held a coarse breath, its pair of blood red eyes stared intently at the human who had trespassed on its territory. Its huge claws smashed onto the ground, turning a couple of rocks to dust.

Eyeing the Magic Ape which showed no sign of hiding its killing intent, Xiao Yan swallowed his saliva. A rank two Magic Beast; its strength was equivalent to that of a human Dou Shi. With his current strength, fighting a rank two Magic Beast was no different than seeking death.

"Teacher?" Xiao Yan shouted in his heart but there was no response. His face became bitter, "Stop fooling around. This is a rank two Magic Beast..."

After his fruitless attempt at calling for help, Xiao Yan could only return his gaze to the Magic Ape's body and study it carefully. When he did so, he found that there was a terrifying gash on the abdomen of this Magic Ape.

The gash nearly ripped apart the Magic Ape's abdomen and when it moved its body, fresh blood came pouring out of the wound which painted the surrounding white hair scarlet.

From the appearance of the terrifying wound, it was likely caused by the claws of some savage Magic Beast. A wounded Magic Beast was usually crazy and the unlucky Xiao Yan happened to coincidentally trespass upon the territory of this severely wounded Magic Beast.

Xiao Yan's eyes narrowed as he stared intently at the frightening wound where fresh blood continued to flow. An idea struck him. Although he was not able to defeat a rank two Magic Beast under normal circumstances, the current situation seemed to be in his favor.

"Dammit. It's you who started this..." After scolding hatefully, Xiao Yan

took off the Heavy Xuan Ruler from his back and fiercely stabbed it into the ground. The circumstances did not allow him to hold back.

Xiao Yan's action appeared to be nothing but a challenge to the angry Magic Ape. Immediately, this Magic Ape pounded its claws on its hard chest, emitting a clanging sound.

The Magic Beast's charging towards Xiao Yan, its red eyes staring at the latter. On the beast's huge claws, a white-colored energy was swiftly being gathered. Almost instantly, the surrounding air turned cold.

Stepping lightly off the ground, Xiao Yan softly cried, "Purple Cloud Wings: Activate!"

Following his voice, a pair of black eagle wings that were two to three meters long suddenly shot out of Xiao Yan's back. The wings flapped and with the help of the lift created, Xiao Yan quickly flew over ten meters above the ground.

"Roar!" the Magic Ape roared violently as the cold, white energy formed into a ball. It was released from the Magic Ape's palm and shot towards Xiao Yan.

A month of agility training had endowed Xiao Yan with a monkey-like nimbleness. He strangely moved aside and easily avoided the Magic Ape's attack.

After evading the attack, Xiao Yan curled his palm and aimed at the sinister looking wound on the Magic Ape's abdomen and softly growled in a cold voice, "Vacuum Hand!"

Following his words, a ferocious suction force was emitted from his palm. Even the broken rocks on the ground were pulled by the suction force and shot at Xiao Yan.

"Roar!" The ferocious suction force pulled on the Magic Ape until its body was tilted sideways. When it finally stabilized its body, however, a huge pain erupted from its abdomen. Lowering its head, it found that blood continued to flow out like water from the wound that had yet to completely close.

The intense pain caused the mad Magic Ape to lose its sense of reasoning. With footsteps that vibrated the ground, it stomped towards Xiao Yan with killing intent.

Using his liveness, Xiao Yan managed to avoid all of the Magic Ape's attacks. His palm repeatedly emitted a suction force that drew more fresh blood from within the Magic Ape.

On the pile of rubble, a strange scene was being enacted. The exceedingly mad Magic Ape unceasingly and angrily smashed at the small human figure beside him. Having lost its reasoning, it was no different from an ordinary Magic Beast. The human figure beside him was like a mosquito that continued to draw a large amount of blood from the Magic Beast's abdomen each time he waved his hand.

The pile of rocks were entirely covered by bright red fresh blood, giving it a frightening appearance.

After a while of running around the Magic Ape, Xiao Yan was at his limit. He pulled out another suction force and this time around, pulled the intestines of the Magic Ape out along with more blood.

Being struck by a fatal blow, the Magic Ape roared a final time before dying. It fell heavily like a small hill collapsing while keeping its huge blood red eyes open.

At the moment when the Magic Ape fell, Xiao Yan's weakened body also collapsed onto the ground. He ignored the blood blanketing the ground as he laid on the ground and took in huge gulps of breath.

After lying on the pile of rocks for a long while, Xiao Yan finally managed to slowly regain some of his strength. He eyed the Magic Ape's corpse a short distance away and could not help but feel a lingering fear in his heart. Had he not risen to a six star Dou Zhe or had the Magic Ape not been seriously wounded and lost its sense of reasoning due to the pain, it was likely that the one who would have died here today would have been himself...

"Little boy, you actually managed to kill a rank two Magic Beast. Tsk tsk, amazing..." Yao Lao floated out from the ring and smiled when he

observed the huge corpse.

Xiao Yan threw the smiling Yao Lao a disdainful look. He got up snappily and threw a phrase 'Watch my back' before forming his training pose and recovering the exhausted Dou Qi in his body.

Watching Xiao Yan close his eyes and recover his energy, Yao Lao floated in midair and acted as his guard.

Half an hour later, Xiao Yan finally slowly opened his eyes. His hands felt a little numb but his body was finally filled with Dou Qi.

"The energy here is quite good." Xiao Yan mumbled as he stood up. He patted his hand and frowned, "The current 'Flame Mantra' is really too lousy. It only supported me for ten minutes. Had the Magic Ape held on a little longer, the one who would have fallen would have been me."

"Hummmph. It is really lousy." Yao Lao was fairly honest regarding this point. Even if the 'Flame Mantra' had great potential, its starting point was too low. Its stamina or endurance in battles was plainly too weak.

"Ugh. When can I find a suitable Heavenly Flame..." Xiao Yan faced the sky and sighed. The pre-evolved 'Flame Mantra' was going to be his weakness for quite a long time.

Xiao Yan shook his head and sighed as he walked towards the small sapling. He plucked the thirty-plus 'Red Spiritual Recovery Fruit' on it, placed them in a small jade bottle and stored it in his storage ring.

Once the 'Red Spiritual Recovery Fruit' was properly taken care of, Xiao Yan took out a dagger from the storage ring and headed for the Blizzard Magic Ape's corpse. He then proceeded to cut open its head.

"Heh, there was a Magic Stone?"

Cutting open the Magic Ape's head, a snow-white Magic Stone which emitted a slight chill appeared within Xiao Yan's sight.

Xiao Yan happily retrieved the Magic Stone, this was the first time he had encountered a Magic Stone of this grade. Somewhat excitedly flinging it about, he grasped it in his hand while the faint chill caused him to

shiver slightly. At once, he made haste to carefully store it in the Storage Ring.

“Lets go.” Xiao Yan packed up his things and waved his finger as Yao Lao shot back into the ring.

Rubbing the simple ring on his hand, Xiao Yan lifted the Black Xuan Ruler onto his back before taking firm and stable strides as he traveled slowly down the path he had come from.

Leaving the pile of rubble, Xiao Yan travelled through the dense forest to quickly return to the valley. As a result of the battle, Xiao Yan was covered entirely in blood, thus he applied a layer of grass paste over his body which helped mask the scent of blood. It was an essential item while in the forest.

Once again stealthily journeying a length of distance, Xiao Yan’s footsteps abruptly stopped, he could sense faint voices coming from somewhere to his left.

Xiao Yan’s brows slightly wrinkled as he swept his gaze over the area before rapidly burrowing into a nearby thicket. Through a small crack in the grass, he unhurriedly observed the surroundings.

Not long after Xiao Yan had hidden himself, two figures slowly appeared within Xiao Yan’s line of sight. When he moved his gaze to sweep across the duo’s chest, the look on his face slightly changed. In his heart, he cursed in a cold and soft voice, “They are from the Wolf Head Mercenaries?”

“I think..... we had better stop here. If we continue, we would be entering into the inner section of the Magic Beast Mountain Range. The Magic Beasts there could easily kill us with a single swipe.” Slowly walking over, one of the mercenaries suggested, a look of worry on his face.

At his companion’s words, the other mercenary also somewhat helplessly nodded his head in agreement, swearing, “Damnit, where exactly is that brat hiding? The commander has already given the death order, we must find that bastard dead or alive.”

“Maybe he has already been eaten by a Magic Beast and become mud. Heh heh.....”

“Heh, that could be possible. Looking at his age, he doesn’t seem like he has much experience in the forest given his age..... Forget it, let our search end here today. We’ll return to report and continue tomorrow.” One of the mercenaries said as he frowned before pausing his steps to peer into the already somewhat dark forest.

“En, too bad, that brat is worth eight thousand gold. If we have the good luck to encounter him, judging by both of our strengths as five star Dou Zhes, stopping him should not be difficult.” The other mercenary nodded before regretfully voicing his thoughts.

“Heh, lucky him, lets go.”

The mercenary smiled as he nodded. However, just as he turned around, his complexion abruptly changed. Turning back like lightning, a fierce Qi heading right for his head greeted him.

This sudden attack caused the mercenary to extend out a fist out of reflex to clash heavily with the incoming fist. However, the strength in the Qi attack had wildly exceeded his expectations.

After making contact, the mercenary’s face turned a deathly pale, his chest felt blocked as he violently spit out a mouthful of blood while his body was flung away through the air.

“Kill him!” In the split second before he was sent flying, the mercenary hastily shouted at his companion who had been thrown into a daze by the sudden turn of events.

However, before his shout faded, to his horror, he found that his body which was flying backwards was suddenly pulled forward by a strong sucking force.

In midair, a figure flashed forward. As the figure met the mercenary’s body, an elbow ferociously smashed into the mercenary’s throat. Immediately an ominous snapping sound echoed about the empty forest.

“Bang.....” Still in the air, the mercenary’s limp body fell downwards,

heavily crashing onto the ground and causing a cloud of dust to splash up.

Between the start of the sudden attack and the mercenary's demise, only a short seven or eight seconds had passed. By the time the other mercenary regained his senses, he found that his companion had already lost his breath of life.

Overwhelmed with shock, the remaining mercenary lifted his head as he gazed in alarm at the nearby figure who was soaked in a layer of blood. Somewhat stuttering, he yelled, "Who are you? Why did you attack us?"

"Hehe, weren't you all looking for me?" The figure raised its head, revealing the smiling face of a handsome youngster.

"You're.. Xiao Yan?" The mercenary's pupils shrunk and after shouting the name, he suddenly turned and ran. While escaping, his hands quickly fished out a signal beacon. Just as he prepared to fire it, the sucking force behind him rose sharply and the signal beacon flew out of his hands...

Easily catching the signal beacon, Xiao Yan fiddled with it for a while before storing it in the Storage Ring. He pressed down lightly with his foot and his body suddenly shot towards the mercenary.

Looking at Xiao Yan's fierce approach, panic flashed across the mercenary's face. With a choking sound, he drew the sword at his waist before viciously hacking at Xiao Yan in anger.

Xiao Yan's body slightly leaned to one side, easily dodging the mercenary's attacks. In a flash, Xiao Yan's left leg ferociously kicked out, immediately landing on the lower abdomen of the mercenary.

Receiving a heavy blow to his lower abdomen, the mercenary groaned as a line of blood sprouted from the corner of his mouth. Staggering back a few steps, he saw the figure in front of him flash as the sword in his hand was snatched away which was followed by an ice-cold feeling of metal on his neck.

"If you make another move.. I will cut open your neck."

The soft devilish voice slowly sounded in the mercenary's ear, causing him to freeze up stiffly on the spot.

“You... If you kill me, the Wolf Head Mercenaries will never let you go!” A layer of cold sweat appeared on the mercenary’s forehead as he threatened in a rough voice.

“Hehe, let me go? All of you have never intended let me go, right?” Sneering as he laughed, Xiao Yan emotionlessly continued, “Answer a few questions for me.”

“Will you let me go after I answer?”

“You do not have the right to choices.” All smiles, Xiao Yan pushed the sword slightly closer, “If you don’t believe me, I can make tens of cuts on your body before throwing you into a flesh-eating ant’s nest?”

At these words, the mercenary’s face immediately turned a few shades paler. His legs continuously trembled, regretting that he thought the youth who looked like he was in his teens wouldn’t be malicious.

“What do you want to ask?”

“Did Mu Li obtain anything from the stone case in the cave? He seems to lack the key right?” Xiao Yan smiled savagely as he inquired.

“Commander Mu Li moved both the stone case and the stone table back, as for what was contained within, I do not have the authority to know.”

Eyeing the mercenary who seemed to be telling the truth, Xiao Yan’s brows slightly creased, “How much is the bounty the Wolf Head Mercenaries placed on me?”

“Gu.” The mercenary swallowed before nodding his head with some difficulty, “Since the young commander returned, the commander has issued a statement that whoever reports any traces of you to the Wolf Head Mercenaries will be given a high reward.”

“Hehe, I can’t believe that they are actually so deathly persistent...” Lightly chuckling, Xiao Yan had a cold murderous intent in his face.

“One last question, did anything happen to the Little Fairy Doctor?”

“Nothing. After returning to Qingshan town, the Little Fairy Doctor has not left the Thousand Medicinal House. The commander and the rest dare

not make a move.” Eyes turning, the mercenary stealthily slipped a dagger out of his sleeve.

“Oh...” Slightly nodding his head, Xiao Yan raised his brows. An unsympathetic smile suddenly appeared on his face, “Looks like you also know that I never intended to let you go back alive.”

“So, you can go and die!” An ominous glint flashed in the mercenary’s eyes as the dagger in his hand suddenly thrust towards Xiao Yan’s chest.

With an icy smile, Xiao Yan floated backwards, the sword in his hand pulled away as a trace of blood appeared on the blade.

Looking at the lightly twitching body of the fallen mercenary, Xiao Yan let loose a cold sneer. He had never planned to let this person return to make a report, which would lead to a huge troop being dispatched to the areas around here.

“Tch, tch. Looks like the commander of the Wolf Head Mercenaries is also a very vicious and thorough person. No wonder he fathered a son like Mu Li.” With a somewhat gloomy and cold smile, Xiao Yan carefully cleaned up any traces of the fight before dragging the two bodies some distance away to throw them into an abyss.

“Teacher, looks like we need to tighten our training schedule. In just a month, they’ve managed to come so far. Perhaps in a few more days, they will be able to find the place...” Xiao Yan said as his mouth twitched. Casting a glance at the endless abyss, Xiao Yan clapped his hands together as if to wipe off the grime from the bodies on his hands.

“En. Indeed, the schedule needs to be tightened.” From the ring, Yao Lao’s faint voice emerged.

Xiao Yan blinked as he laughed while clicking his fingers together. A small smile on his face, he asked, “Teacher, when will you honor the promise of the Di Rank Dou Technique?”

“Heh heh, little brat, don’t think that a Di Rank Dou Technique is the same as a Xuan Rank Dou Technique. To learn this thing, you need to be prepared for a world of pain!” Yao Lao maliciously laughed.

“Have I not already gone through a lot of hardship?” Feeling his face, Xiao Yan lightly smiled and then turned to travel towards the valley.

“I look forward to the so-called Di Rank Dou Technique. Exactly how strong will it be?”

Chapter 122: Di Class Dou Technique - Flame Splitting Tsunami

A couple of people were seated within the heavy atmosphere of the hall. Amongst them was the one who had many conflicts with Xiao Yan, Mu Li.

On the leader's seat in the hall sat a middle-aged man with a slightly gloomy face. His finger lightly tapped on the tabletop. Finally, he was the one who broke the silence in the room.

"I've just received news that amongst the groups that we had sent out to search, a two-man team went missing within the middle part of the Magic Beast Mountain Range." The slightly hoarse voice of the middle-aged man slowly sounded in the room.

"Father. Could they have met with an attack by a Magic Beast?" Mu Li smiled carelessly as he replied. Being killed by a Magic Beast was very common in the Mystical Beast Mountain Range.

Hearing Mu Li's address, this middle-aged man could only be concluded to be the leader of the Wolf Head Mercenary Company, Mu She.

"If they had met with a Magic Beast attack, there should have been some traces of such a fight. However.. the mercenaries that we sent to reinforce them found no traces of a fight after searching the region that the pair was in charge of. If we eliminate the possibility of them falling from a cliff, a mistake that only a novice mercenary would make, I think that they may have been attacked by another person. Those missing traces of battle may have been the doing of that person." Mu She emotionlessly said as he shook his head.

"Are you suspecting that this is the doing of Xiao Yan?" Upon hearing Mu She's reasoning, Mu Li stilled. He quickly shook his head and said, "I've exchange blows with that guy. With his strength, to be able to kill two five star Dou Zhe before they even have the chance to raise a signal... it seems impossible."

"I don't care if it's him or not. Tomorrow, we will send more people to

carefully search the place.” Mu She said in a deep voice. The inborn snake-like cautiousness in him did not allow the slightest chance to pass by him.

TL: Joke on his name, She means snake

“Ah, just as well,” Mu Li waved his hand and nodded his head indifferently.

“Have you managed to open the stone box that you carried back from the cave?” After scanning his surroundings, Mu She suddenly asked.

“The key to the stone box is in Xiao Yan’s hand. I’ve hired the best locksmith in the entire Qingshan Town but from the looks of it, we can’t expect much.” Mu Li said with a frown.

“If we cannot open the lock, then we’ll try to use force to open the box. To be able to carelessly put aside over seven hundred thousand gold coins and some rare medicinal herbs, this ancient person was likely quite strong. The things that he left behind should also not be anything common.” Mu She tightened his fist as greed flashed across his eyes.

“Yes.” Mu Li nodded his head and licked his lips. In a low voice, he asked: “Father, what do you intend to do about the Little Fairy Doctor?”

“Do you know what she obtained from the cave?”

Seeing Mu Li helplessly shaking his head, Mu She’s eyes narrowed. He waved his hands and said in a deep voice, “We will not touch her for now. Her reputation in Qingshan Town is too good. If we make any rash moves, we may arouse the displeasure of the independent mercenaries.”

“Are we just going to allow her to peacefully stay at the ‘Thousand Medicinal House’?”

“Haha. It is naturally impossible for her to have any peaceful days. Tomorrow, get someone to spread a rumor. Just say that the Little Fairy Doctor had obtained a relic of some strong person and that this relic was most likely a Xuan Rank Qi Method.” Mu She laughed in a cold and evil manner, “That Little Fairy Doctor may be skilled in the art of healing but she’s too weak. Not everyone in this world is kind. There will always be some greedy people who would think of ways to obtain the relic from the

Little Fairy Doctor... As for how to handle such people, we will let her have a headache over it.”

“This is a good plan. If even the ‘Thousand Medicinal House’ becomes interested in this relic, then the Little Fairy Doctor would lose her safe haven. Haha, when that time comes, it would be exceedingly easy to catch her.” The corner of Mu Li’s lip curled upwards with pleasure as he laughed.

Mu She nodded his head slightly as he lightly rubbed the a scar below his ear. He said flatly, “The Little Fairy Doctor is not much of a threat. What I’m really worried about is the boy whom you spoke of, Xiao Yan.” Stopping there, Mu She’s eyes showed a glint of resolve.

“In order to be able to reach a two star Dou Zhe or higher at such a young age, his potential must be very strong... What really attracts my attention is that a boy younger than twenty did not show any arrogance someone his age should have and instead was able to hide his true strength so well. Had it not been for the life and death situation at the last minute, it was likely that no one would have guessed that he could push you back with just one strike.” As his voice died down, a cold killing intent surfaced on his face.

“An enemy with such a potential must be killed before he has the chance to grow. Otherwise, we will not be able to afford it when he returns to seek revenge in the future!” Mu She’s finger pressed hard on the scar under his ear as he coldly spoke.

Recalling how Xiao Yan managed to choose the perfect escape plan even when facing the dangerous predicament in the mountain cave, Mu Li’s finger trembled slightly. Having such an enemy was giving him sleepless nights.

“Tomorrow, I will double the number of people in the search party. The monetary reward will be tripled. We must find that guy in the shortest amount of time!” Mu Li said in a thick voice as he clenched his fist.

Seeing how the father and son were so alert even when dealing with a young man in his teens, the top brass of the Wolf Head Mercenary

Company seated in the hall wanted to snort with contempt. However, on the surface, they respectfully accepted their orders.

.....

The galloping waterfall heavily smashed on the rocks, emitting a muffled sound of thunder that reverberated throughout the small valley.

Standing beside the lake under the waterfall, Xiao Yan stared at the ten huge wooden stakes under the pounding waterflow. His face could not help but turn bitter as he smiled at Yao Lao beside him, "Teacher, you don't intend for me to go down and train, do you?"

"Your answer is correct." With a smile, Yao Lao said, "I've already told you before not to imagine a Di Rank Dou Technique as being the same as a Xuan Rank Dou Technique and that anyone can learn it. If you wish to learn something of this level, you need to achieve certain essential requirements."

"Hand me the Heavy Xuan Ruler." Reaching out his hand, Yao Lao lifted the strange looking black-colored, heavy ruler from Xiao Yan's back.

The extremely heavy ruler on Xiao Yan's back only caused Yao Lao's hand to sink slightly upon receiving it. Yao Lao swung the large black ruler easily and asked with a smile, "Have you seen a real Di Rank Dou Technique? Do you want to see one?"

Hearing this, Xiao Yan's eyes abruptly brightened. He nodded his head like a chicken feeding on rice.

With a faint smile, Yao Lao held the Heavy Xuan Ruler as his body slowly ascended into the air, stopping only when his body was above the middle of the lake.

Yao Lao lowered his head and looked at the lake surface four or five meters below him before raising his head and watching the silver, dragon-like, gigantic waterfall.

Yao Lao took in a slow breath and narrowed his eyes. A moment later, he suddenly opened them. Instantly, a unfamiliar and frightening force like a dragon being awoken was emitted from Yao Lao's body.

In the face of this force, the calm lake surface beneath Yao Lao's feet suddenly had white bubbles rolling over like it was being boiled. The bubbles being thrashed around under Yao Lao's feet began to spread until they encompassed the entire lake's surface.

Xiao Yan was shocked as he stared at the scene of the lake with a stunned face. The current Yao Lao was entirely different from the lazy and indifferent old man that he usually was. At the moment, he was like a chilling knife being unsheathed, carrying a sharp, imposing force that one did not dare directly look at.

"I'm afraid that this is someone who is truly strong..." Xiao Yan whispered in his mouth. A moment later, Xiao Yan's eyes suddenly blazed. He believed that one day, he would also be able to achieve this strength.

Above the lake, Yao Lao indifferently and slowly lifted the black ruler in his hand. On the surface of the ruler, the numerous bizarre lines that Xiao Yan had once been confused about were emitting a fiery red light. When the surface of the ruler passed through empty space, the surrounding air suddenly became illusionary and blurry.

Tightly grabbing the black ruler which had turned into the fiery redness like that of the sunset, Yao Lao let out a soft low cry and suddenly moved his body.

His feet slowly stepped on the empty space as a blurry afterimage shockingly appeared under the light of the setting sun.

Looking at the blurry afterimage in the empty space with a shocked expression, Xiao Yan became speechless. He did not expect that Yao Lao's speed was frightening to this extent.

As the blurry afterimage scattered, Yao Lao's body appeared to have teleported to a spot under the huge waterfall that was over ten feet away. Compared to the huge waterfall, Yao Lao's small body was like an ant that did not attract anyone's attention. However, it was this ant like small figure that was currently carrying a force that was more frightening than the waterfall.

The intense wind pressure that the waterfall carried as it descended did

not even cause the small and weak-looking Yao Lao to move.

Yao Lao's body, which had shot forward abruptly, came to a stop. His feet stepped on the empty air and spun a hundred and eighty degrees. The light emitting from the black ruler in Yao Lao's hand grew increasingly bright. Moments later, the brightness forced Xiao Yan to narrow his eyes.

"Di Rank Dou Technique: Flame Splitting Tsunami!"

In the empty space of the valley, a muffled sound like thunder exploded. This was quickly followed by an extremely turbulent heat wave that was scattered throughout the entire valley.

"Bang!" Numerous water pillars suddenly sprung from the surface of the wide lake, revealing a spectacular sight.

Between the water pillars, an enormous red light suddenly flashed. At the spots where the red light passed through, the water pillars immediately disappeared and were replaced by a cloud of mist.

"Bang!" The red light was like a shocked goose that shot across the lake's surface like lightning, creating a tsunami that was over ten meters tall. Finally, it smashed heavily into the galloping waterfall.

"Bang! Bang! Bang!"

A deafening, explosive sound of thunder continued to reverberate through the valley as countless rocks broke and fell from the cliff wall.

Xiao Yan covered his ears and widened his mouth at the noise that was created by the attack. A moment later, he swallowed his saliva with difficulty and shifted his gaze to the place where the waterfall was. However, a thick fog blocked his sight.

A ferocious wind blew from the surface of the lake, scattering the fog in the valley. The huge waterfall behind the mist was also slowly revealed.

Xiao Yan's eyes widened as he stared at the waterfall that had appeared. He was dull for a moment before slowly taking in a breath of cold air.

At that moment, the tremendous water flow of the waterfall was actually cut off, exposing the huge rocky gully behind. It was over a hundred feet

long and thirty feet wide.

On the edge of the gully, countless small crack lines covered the entire rocky wall, appearing like an ivy.

The water stream of the waterfall was cut off for over twenty seconds before it began to gradually flow down, covering the huge scars on the rock surface.

“This is the strength of a Di Rank Dou Technique?” Xiao Yan rubbed his chest, feeling a little flustered and suffocated.

Descending from the sky, Yao Lao lightly placed a finger on the stunned Xiao Yan.

“Flame Splitting Tsunami, Low Di Dou Skill. When mastery is achieved, cutting mountains and breaking waves can be easily accomplished.”

Even though it was a simple description, it still gave Xiao Yan much happiness.

Stabbing the Heavy Xuan Ruler into the ground, Yao Lao wiped his hands against each other and raised his chin at the ten huge wooden logs under the waterfall. He smiled, “From today onwards, you will need to withstand the flow of the waterfall as you train. Once you are able to hold your ground on the tenth log and cut against the water flow for three hundred times, you will have achieved the first step in using the ‘Flame Splitting Tsunami’. But you need to remember that with your strength, you can at most use the ‘Flame Splitting Tsunami’ once. If you try to forcefully use it a second time, you will receive a serious internal injury and may affect your future potential. Thus, do not carelessly use it unless it is a very crucial moment!” Yao Lao’s voice grew severe towards the end of his speech.

Xiao Yan nodded his head as he followed Yao Lao’s gaze and stared at the bottom of the waterfall. The loud, banging noises emitted from the water crashing against the enormous rocks made him shiver as he let out a hollow laugh, “With such a strong force, if one were to enter without the protection of one’s Dou Qi, one would instantly be knocked unconscious, no?”

“Maybe.” Yao Lao spread out his hands and extended one to Xiao Yan with a smile, “When you are training, you must have the Heavy Xuan Ruler with you. When you want to use the ‘Flame Splitting Tsunami’ in the future, you will have to rely on it. Without it, this Di Rank Dou Technique would only have around thirty percent of its strength.”

“Additionally, please hand over all the ‘Energy Recovery Pill’ you have with you. This training does not require it. You will have to rely on yourself to recover your Dou Qi.” Yao Lao took the pills directly from Xiao Yan’s storage ring as he smiled.

Seeing that Yao Lao had confiscated all of his reserve stock, Xiao Yan could only helplessly twitch the corner of his mouth. He turned around and eyed the huge wooden log under the waterfall before clenching his teeth, “What kind of misery have I not overcome? Do you think I would be overwhelmed by this difficulty?”

“For the Di Rank Dou Technique, I will fight!” Clenching his teeth and letting out an angry cry, Xiao Yan stripped his clothes and jumped onto a huge rock. With a threatening gesture, he leapt to the first wooden log.

“Bang!” As Xiao Yan landed on the wooden log, a huge force from the waterfall ruthlessly knocked onto his body before he could call upon his Dou Qi to protect his body. He felt a sharp pain on his back before the ferocious force showed no sign of restraint as it knocked him off the wooden log and into the lake.

Xiao Yan’s head surfaced from the lake and vomited the water that went into his stomach. He shouted angrily, “I’m going to drag it out with you today!” After he shouted, Xiao Yan climbed out of the lake and once again jumped onto the huge rock before furiously rushing onto the wooden log.

“Bang...”

“Damn your grandmother.”

“Bang...”

“Dammit.”

“Bang...”

Seated on a huge rock by the lakeside, Yao Lao watched the young man use his stubborn strength to repeatedly challenge the waterfall. He smiled faintly as a pleased look appeared in his eyes.

Chapter 123: Start of Vengeance

“Daaah...”

The sound from the gigantic waterfall resounded across the valley, day after day, year after year. The water vapor made the ravine feel as if it were completely isolated from the sweltering world outside.

As the waterfall surged, it looked similar to a silver dragon. Under the waterfall, a youngster with a bare torso was clenching his jaw while firmly holding onto the large Heavy Xuan Ruler in his hands. Continuously hacking at the torrential current before him, every chop of the Black Ruler sent water flashing forth in the air.

Xiao Yan's legs were like the roots of a plant, tenaciously gluing themselves to the wooden stake. On the surface of Xiao Yan's body, a light yellow Dou Qi was faintly discernible and every time water flowed onto his body, a light mist would soar upwards.

For the heavy ruler to chop into the streaming water, a monumental amount of strength was needed, thus having already endured a period of time on the wooden stake, every swing of the heavy ruler caused the muscles on the arms of Xiao Yan to emit waves of acute pain.

With gritted teeth, Xiao Yan's heel gradually weakened and finally in the middle of a chop, a banging sound was heard as the fierce flow of water finally struck him who had already reached his limit off the wooden stake and into the lake below.

“Pu.” Xiao Yan's head emerged from the surface of the lake as he spit out a mouthful of lake water. He shook his dizzy head before forcing his almost numb body to swim towards the shore. After reaching the lakeside, his body fell weakly onto the ice-cold rocks while his aching muscles caused him to not want to budge even a fraction.

“Here, eat some of this.” A savory baked fish was passed over and waved in front of Xiao Yan.

Opening his eyes, Xiao Yan deeply breathed in the aroma as a ‘gu gu’

sound erupted from his stomach. Moving his body with great difficulty, he leaned against a giant rock before receiving the baked fish and gorging himself on the food.

As he gazed at the scene of Xiao Yan wolfing down his food, Yao Lao laughed before turning his gaze to sweep across the ten wooden stakes under the waterfall. Smiling, he remarked, "Really, not bad, in just five days, you've actually managed to endure for such a long time on the third wooden stake."

With a mouth almost bursting with food, Xiao Yan could only ambiguously mumble out.

"Recently, mercenaries have appeared more and more frequently around this place." Seated next to Xiao Yan, Yao Lao seemed to offhandedly remark.

Slightly shocked, Xiao Yan's eyes slowly narrowed. Forcefully swallowing the food in his mouth, he sneered and said, "Looks like the Wolf Head Mercenaries have finally become aware of something."

"According to their speed, I'm afraid it will be one month at most before they find this valley. Looks like we need to once again increase the pace." Rubbing his chin, Xiao Yao smugly smiled.

"How do we increase it?" Yao Lao's words caused Xiao Yan to blink his eyes, unconvinced. His current training speed was already considered to be high, would it be possible to increase it further?

"It can indeed be faster, but.....you will suffer if you use this thing." Yao Lao honestly replied.

"Have I not suffered a lot over this period of time?" Xiao Yan rebutted as he rolled his eyes while his mouth twitched.

"Hehe, that's true....." All smiles as he inclined his head, Yao Lao took out Xiao Yan's Storage Ring before leisurely removing over ten clear jade bottles from within. The jade bottles were filled with a type of red liquid that were as viscous as fresh blood.

"What is this?" Curiously staring at this unfamiliar thing, Xiao Yan

asked.

“Burning Blood!” Yao Lao picked up a jade bottle and lightly shook it. Slightly smiling, he continued, “This was made by me using twenty three different types of fire attribute medicine ingredients and the blood from three types of rank two fire attribute Magic Beasts. If we want to judge its quality, it could be likened to a tier four pill.”

“Fourth tier?” Xiao Yan raised his eyebrows; this was the first time he had personally seen a pill of this level.

“What is the effect of this thing?”

“This ‘Burning Blood’, is only effective for a person who has a fire attribute Dou Qi. To a person with water attribute Dou Qi, it is undoubtedly a poison. When it is spread onto the body, it can increase the consumption of Dou Qi within the body and at the same time, it will also speed up the recovery of Dou Qi. Through this repeating process, your strength will gradually increase.” Yao Lao smiled, a crafty look in his eyes, “Don’t be happy just yet, I have mentioned that if you want to use it to increase your training pace, you need to partake in a great suffering.”

“What suffering?” Seeing Yao Lao’s expression, Xiao Yan also felt somewhat nervous as he cautiously inquired.

“Give me your hand.” A smile on his face, Yao Lao pulled Xiao Yan’s arm over before slightly tilting the jade bottle to let a drop of red liquid drop onto Xiao Yan’s arm.

“Hiss…….” As the red liquid touched Xiao Yan’s skin, Xiao Yan was first dazed before he fiercely sucked in a breath of cool air. His forehead was densely covered in cold sweat, his teeth were stuck together as his arms continuously trembled.

In Xiao Yan’s mind, the drop of red liquid on his arm was like a ball of flame, it continuously released a scorching temperature. This burning sensation felt as if he had thrust his arm into a burning bucket of coal.

As if he had predicted what kind of reaction Xiao Yan would have, Yao Lao smugly smiled. Once again taking something out of the Space Ring, a

small jade plate made of white jade was used to slowly spreading the drop of red liquid, causing the area it had covered to gradually expand.

In the wake of the expanding reach of the red liquid, Xiao Yan's arm trembled even more violently. On his arm, even the veins seemed to twist about, creating an extremely terrifying sight.

The red liquid adhered to the surface of Xiao Yan's skin while traces of faint tepid steam continuously emitted forth. Xiao Yan's arm also turned a shade redder.

This state continued for over ten minutes before vanishing little by little.

After the burning sensation completely faded from his arm, Xiao Yan finally let out a heavy sigh of relief. Wiping away the sweat from his forehead, he once again gazed towards the small jade bottle before him, but this time with a trace of fear in his eyes.

"This thing.....is too terrifying." With a lingering fear in his heart, Xiao Yan patted the arm which had already returned to its regular temperature. Staring at Yao Lao with a bitter look, he said, "We can't be considering to use this to train right?"

"Steady your mind and sense the flow of Dou Qi in your arm, are there any changes?" Not answering Xiao Yan's question Yao Lao asked with a smile.

Shrugging his shoulders, Xiao Yan could only comply and close both eyes. His thoughts quickly moved to the Qi Paths on his arm and after probing around, to his astonishment, the Dou Qi in the Qi Paths of his left arm was not only much thicker than the Dou Qi flowing elsewhere but the energy in this Dou Qi seemed to be somewhat stronger too.

Somewhat amazed, Xiao Yan slowly opened his eyes and looked towards the side where Yao Lao was still smiling. He lapsed into silence for a while before resolutely gritting his teeth: "Come on, let's fight it out!"

Seeing Xiao Yan's resolute appearance, the smile on Yao Lao's face widened even further. He had long ago foreseen that this little brat would not be able to resist the enticement of the high-speed increase of strength

that 'Burning Blood' produced.

"Lie on your stomach; from now on we will spread it over your entire body once per day. This will help your training speed increase by a total of thirty to forty percent." Yao Lao smiled as he waved his hand.

Xiao Yan cracked open his mouth and bit onto a portion of his clothes before tightly gripping a crack in the rocks with both hands. With a muffled voice, he spat out, "Bring it!"

Gazing at Xiao Yan who looked as if he were going to face a terrible enemy, Yao Lao grudgingly shook his head. The jade bottle tilted as a red liquid immediately flowed out.....

"Ah....." A mournful and miserable howl suddenly resounded once again throughout the valley.

While Xiao Yan squeezed in every bit of time he had for training, the search by the Wolf Head Mercenaries became more and more intense, they payed the price of over ten of their companions lives before finally, they started to draw close to the valley where Xiao Yan was.

On a certain day one month later, when Xiao Yan was finally able to endure on the eighth wooden stake for a long period of time, at last, a member of the Wolf Head Mercenaries managed to stumble upon this quiet valley.

As he stood at the valley entrance, this Wolf Head mercenary blankly gazed at the youngster who was training under the waterfall. It was only a moment later when a cold breeze blew by did he regained his wits and at this time, ecstasy gushed forth in his heart. Without a word, he quickly retrieved the signal beacon from his bosom but just as he desired to release the signal, an intense, wind breaking force abruptly attacked from the front.

The strength of this attack caused the mercenary whose strength was that of a six star Dou Zhe to shiver in his heart; the sole of his foot slammed into the ground as his figure turned to flee.

"Boom!" A black shadow broke through the air and heavily smashed

onto the ground. Immediately, dirt was flung about and a monstrosly huge black metal ruler was left stuck deep in the ground.

His sight on the strange black giant ruler, the pupils of this Wolf Head Mercenaries member slightly shrunk. This unique weapon had already become a symbol of the youngster they had placed a bounty on.

As the dirt flew into the air, covering one's line of sight, this experienced and seasoned mercenary did not show an disappointing display; his figure continuously backed off in a rush as his keen eyes darted back and forth over the surroundings.

Just as the mercenary was almost exiting the valley, his spider senses tingled as he abruptly dropped his body to the ground.

"Ka cha!" Just as his body dropped to the ground, a violent Qi energy ruthlessly tore through the area atop his head before finally hitting a big tree to one side. Immediately, cracks appeared across the tree trunk and following a breaking sound, the tree split at the middle.

Gazing at the tree which had been forcefully destroyed, the mercenary on the ground sucked in a cold breath. To create this kind of destructive force, how much strength was needed?

As the shock flashed and passed from his mind, this mercenary suddenly placed his palms on the ground, his figure became similar to that of a house lizard. Flicking his palms off the ground, in a weird manner, his body dashed towards the thicket.

The fleeing mercenary was very satisfied with this move of his; this High Huang Lizard Crawl Dou Techniques had helped him escape from jaws of death many times. From what he knew, among those at the Dou Zhe level, there were very few people that could stop him as he escaped through the jungle.

Just after the mercenary thought of returning to report and being able to receive the large reward before going to tavern to take revenge against the fair and well developed woman who disdained him, on the path before him, a pair of feet abruptly appeared.

The urgently dashing body suddenly stopped as the mercenary lifted his head, terrified, to meet the smile on a handsome face.

“You run very fast.....” The youngster slightly smiled at the mercenary. In his pitch-black eyes an ice-cold killing intent caused the mercenary to tremble uncontrollably.

Gazing upon the mercenary who had lost his spirit, the corners of Xiao Yan’s mouth curled upwards while the giant black ruler in his hand chopped downwards ferociously. Immediately, a blood-curdling shriek resounded across the forested mountains.

Indifferently wiping the blood off the mysterious and heavy ruler, Xiao Yan cast a glance towards the corpse at his feet. His tongue lightly licked his lips as a blood-thirsty look appeared on his face. He softly murmured to himself, “Want to kill me? Good.....from today onwards, every member of the Wolf Head Mercenaries who dares to step into the Magic Beast Mountain Range will be exterminated.....since you all want to play, then we should up the stakes.”

“My vengeance starts now.....”

Chapter 124: Massacre

The dense forest was quiet and serene. Occasionally, a few smaller beasts would leap across the forest ground, startling the birds resting in the trees.

The serene atmosphere lasted for a short while before it was suddenly disrupted by a terrible looking figure that frightened away all the birds in the trees.

Ignoring the disruption he had just caused, the distressful looking shadow scurried away. Occasionally, his terrified face would sweep a glance towards his back as though there was an ancient ferocious beast that was chasing after him.

After running for some distance, this human figure who was wearing mercenary clothes lifted his head and stared at the light just a short distance away. An uncontrolled happiness surfaced on his face. Once he escaped this irritating dense forest, he would be able to call upon his companions to save him. When that time came, he would no longer need to fear the death god that was after his life.

The mercenary's body suddenly charged forward. He jumped and fiercely stepped onto a tree branch. Instantly, his figure shot towards the light with an explosive force.

With the bright light which was almost by his side, the uncontrolled happiness on the mercenary's face grew increasingly denser. However, a moment later, the happiness suddenly froze as the mercenary realised that a fierce suction had abruptly appeared. Not only did the suction forcefully halt his advance, it even pulled his body backwards.

A startled look covered his face. Before the mercenary could shout, a black figure flashed passed him. An enormous, breaking wind accompanied by a the sound of muted thunder smashed heavily onto his chest.

"Bang!" The deep muffled sound caused the mercenary to shut his eyes tightly as his chest sunk inwards.

The enormous force caused the mercenary's body to fall from midair and crash painfully into the ground, scattering the soil. Along the damaged organs, fresh blood violently spurted all over the place.

His enormous pair of eyes stared intently at the human figure standing on a tree branch above him. Gradually, the eyes became white and a moment later, the mercenary's breath was extinguished...

Staring indifferently at the mercenary whose breath was extinguished, the young man who was carrying a large black ruler and standing on the tree branch slightly tightened his hands. In a soft voice, he whispered, "The eleventh.... since you wish to take other people's head in exchange for money, you should be mentally prepared for others to kill you."

The young man on the tree was Xiao Yan who had left his training area. After leaving the training area, Xiao Yan had met over ten mercenaries of the Wolf Head Mercenary Company who had come to search for him for the past two days. When dealing with these people who intended to use him to exchange for reward money, Xiao Yan did not show any mercy. During his journey, almost all the members of the Wolf Head Mercenary Company who were weaker than an eight star Dou Zhe were killed by him.

With Xiao Yan's current strength, he could easily take the life a seven star Dou Zhe within twenty rounds should he remove the Heavy Xuan Ruler. Of course, this was only true if the seven star Dou Zhe did not possess a Dou Technique that was comparable to his. However, such a person could not be found in the entire Wolf Head Mercenary Company.

Just yesterday, Xiao Yan had managed to learn of some information on the internal structure of the Wolf Head Mercenary Company from one of the mercenaries' mouth. The strongest within the Wolf Head Mercenary Company was the two star Dou Shi Mu She, who was the leader of the Company. Under him was a nine star and an eight star Dou Zhe who formed the upper echelons of the Wolf Head Mercenary Company. Other than the three of them, the huge Wolf Head Mercenary Company did not possess anyone who had the strength to have a solo fight with Xiao Yan.

After throwing another gaze at the lifeless corpse, Xiao Yan's foot stepped lightly on the tree branch. Using the force, Xiao Yan glided over to the denser parts of the forest. His soft chilling laughter gradually scattered all around him.

"Young Master Mu Li. I want to see just how many of your Wolf Head Mercenary Company will die. If you send one, I'll kill one... the game has only just begun!"

.....

"Bastard! Go and die!"

Within the spacious hall, Mu She angrily shouted upon hearing the news that his subordinates repeatedly brought him. In his fury, he shattered the tea cup in his hand.

Seeing the furious Mu She, all of the upper echelons of the Wolf Head Mercenary Company in the hall were silent. None of them dared to provoked him at this moment in time.

"In just a mere two days, we have lost fifteen of our important members. If this is prolonged, will there be anyone left in our Wolf Head Mercenary Company?" Mu She hissed after releasing a few ragged breaths.

Everyone was at a loss for words as they stared at each other.

"The one who did this was definitely Xiao Yan..." Mu She braced himself and said after staring at the silent hall and coughed dryly.

"Didn't you say that his strength was about the same as yours? Why did three seven star Dou Zhes that we sent out all die to his hands?" Mu She slammed his palm on the table as he furiously demanded.

Mu Li smiled bitterly as he helplessly replied, "Three months ago, that guy was no stronger than me even after revealing his hidden strength. Otherwise, he would not have been humiliated in the cave by the men that I brought along with me."

"But the strength he is now displaying is definitely not weaker than that of a seven star Dou Zhe. It may even be that of an eight star Dou Zhe!" Mu

She's face turned gloomier as he thought of the different possibilities. The corner of his mouth could not help but twitch as a chilliness appeared in his voice, "Don't tell me that the boy has actually grown so much after staying in the Magic Beast Mountain Range for only a few months?"

Hearing this, Mu Li's eyes twitched. Aghast filled his eyes. That guy actually managed to raise his strength by two stars in only three months? How did this bastard train? This speed... isn't it too scary?"

"It looks like we were right. That guy is no ordinary person." Gradually recovering his senses from his fury, Mu She sat on his chair and tapped his finger on the table. After a brief silence, he calculatingly said, "We will temporarily withdraw our men from the Magic Beast Mountain Range. Two days later, we will divide our forces into five man teams armed with signals that can be used to indicate positions and enter the Magic Beast Mountain Range together."

"I want to create a net that he cannot escape from and see where he will run to!" Mu She clenched his fist as a sinister killing intent appeared on his face.

"Yes sir!"

"Oh yes, where's He Meng? Why don't I see him?" Mu She lowered his head slightly and swept across the hall before abruptly questioning.

"Um..." Hearing Mu She's question, his subordinates froze. A moment later, someone finally laughed dryly, "I heard that the Third Company Leader had brought a few brothers to accompany Madam Lan of the Blue Flowers Hotel into the Magic Beast Mountain Range to hunt for Snow Foxes."

Mu She scolded, "All that this buckethead thinks about is women. Doesn't he know about the predicament the Wolf Head Mercenary Company is currently in? How dare he enter the Magic Beast Mountain Range without permission. This damn idiot will sooner or later die by the hands of a woman."

"Company Leader. The Third Company Leader is an eight star Dou Zhe. If he were to meet Xiao Yan, he might be able to kill him along the way."

“With that guy’s mind, I would be satisfied if he could come back alive!” Mu She coldly snorted. He immediately waved his hands fretfully. For some reason, he felt an uncomfortable feeling within him. He Meng was different from the other company members, should he unfortunately die in Xiao Yan’s hands, the Wolf Head Mercenary Company would receive a severe blow.

“Get that guy to come and look for me once he returns.” Leaving a sentence that was filled with thick anger, Mu She turned around and left the hall where murmurs had erupted.

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A large tent was set up in the forest under the moonlight along with a couple of pale yellow flames, appearing very prominent in the darkness of the night.

Standing atop a tree and leaning against a branch, Xiao Yan lightly chewed on a piece green grass in his mouth. A faint bitter taste slowly spread throughout his mouth.

Under the cover of the tree branches, Xiao Yan, who was standing atop a tree, had a clear view of the camp site under him. There were around fifteen mercenaries in the campsite with most of them having the strength of a five star Dou Zhe. Within the tent at the center of the campsite was an eight star Dou Zhe. He was Xiao Yan’s target. It was also said that he was the Third Company Leader of the Wolf Head Mercenary Company.

With Xiao Yan’s current strength, he had a good chance if he fought one on one against an eight star Dou Zhe. However, this was only the case in the absence of any assistants. From the looks of it, he needed to eliminate all the other mercenaries before he could kill that eight star Dou Zhe.

Xiao Yan pressed his eyebrows together as he observed the heavily guarded campsite. He did not make any moves and instead, he quietly waited for an opportunity.

.....

A crescent moon hung high in the sky and the land was totally silent.

After waiting for awhile, a faint wind suddenly formed in the air and blew across the forest, causing the trees to rustle as it passed.

A vague smile formed on Xiao Yan's face as he felt the wind blow. He flicked his finger lightly, prompting a bag of medicinal powder to appear in his hand. This medicinal powder was what the Little Fairy Doctor had given him when they had parted. The droziness that this powder could cause was something that Xiao Yan needed.

Xiao Yan smiled as he tossed the bag of powder around in his hand. He was about to take action when he noticed two guards from the tent were slowly heading towards him.

"Have I been discovered?"

With a frown, Xiao Yan shrunk his body into the shadows as he stared at the two guards who were closing in on him. At the same time, the Dou Qi in his body began to flow.

Just as the two mercenaries arrived at the tree beneath Xiao Yan, they abruptly stopped. The pair took a quick glance at the surroundings before relieving themselves.

Xiao Yan sighed in relief upon seeing their action. In his heart, he chided silently...

"Dammit, that chick is too flirtatious. The big bottom of hers makes me want to press her on the ground and take her." One of the mercenaries vented with foul words as the pair was relieving themselves.

"Lower your voice. That chick is the the Third Company Leader's. If you dare do anything to her, the Third Company Leader would throw you out to feed the wolves." The other mercenary carefully reminded.

"Pifft, she's soiled goods. I have even seen the Second Company Leader take her last time but it appears she dares not tell the Third Company Leader about this. Ha ha."

"Forget it, just forget it. It is better not to go around saying nonsense. Otherwise, the one who suffers will be low ranked soldiers like us. Let's go..." After finishing, the mercenary on the left was the first to turn

around. A black figure suddenly flashed in front of him. Before he had the time to react, a terrible pain erupted from his throat, following which, his consciousness became hazy.

“Let’s go.” The other mercenary initiated before turning around. When he saw that the space behind him was empty, he became stunned. He did not have the chance to speak when a coldness was felt on his throat. After which, everything became dark around him.

Xiao Yan quietly carried the two corpses into the dense forest before climbing up to the top of the tree once again. He scanned the campsite below him and scattered the medicinal powder from his hand.

Under the cover of the night, the medicinal powder was carried by the wind and secretly floated into the campsite.

The mercenaries around the campsite slowly collapsed under the effect of the medicinal powder.

In only a moment, the large campsite became totally quiet.

Xiao Yan was silent for a moment as he stared at the quiet campsite. Finally, he jumped off the tree and walked into the campsite while wielding a sword that he had taken from one of the mercenaries.

With the sword, Xiao Yan successfully passed through a few empty tents. A moment later, he came to the center of the campsite and stood outside the largest tent.

Under the light of the fire in the tent, two bodies were tangled together.

The corner of Xiao Yan’s lips was coldly raised as he heard the groans of the two being emitted from the tent.

Chapter 125: Eight Star Dou Zhe – He Meng

Lowering his head and looking at the soft white woman below him, a lewd smile appeared on He Meng's face. His hands heavily kneaded the two soft breasts while exerting a slight force. The woman below him briefly arched up her waist like a female cat, letting loose a moaning sound of debauchery.

Stimulated by this soft moan, He Meng used both arms to tightly hug the woman's waist. A brief moment later, both naked bodies stiffened.

Raising his head, the intense pleasure caused He Meng to take a deep breath. His previously stiffened body also quietly softened at this moment.

As He Meng's body was slightly shaking due to the pleasure, his sharp senses honed by long years of living at the knife's edge caused his whole body to tighten up again. A bolt of alarm shot across his heart; he grabbed the blanket beside him and threw it behind him.

“Chi la”

A touch of bitter light easily sliced apart the bedding and a shadow rapidly shot into the tent. A bitter cold blade heartlessly shot towards He Meng's neck.

This sudden assault caused He Meng's face to change drastically. His body awkwardly rolled on the bed and dangerously avoided the edge of the blade.

Failing to hit its target, the blade of the sword slashed out horizontally without hesitation. A glint of cold light swept past the clump of fire within the tent and immediately continued to pursue to evading He Meng and drew a shallow line of blood from his chest.

“Ah!” Looking at the black shadow that suddenly barged in, the woman on the bed screamed loudly in horror. With a flip of Xiao Yan's palm, a piece of charcoal was sucked into his hand. Without even looking back, Xiao Yan threw it behind him. Following this, a short sharp sound that

made people feel despair, rang out and the irritating screaming stopped.

“Who are you? Why do you want to assassinate me? Don’t you know that I’m one of the three leaders of the Wolf Head Mercenary Company?” Panicking, He Meng raged.

“That’s precisely the reason I am here to kill you.” The black shadow raised his head, revealing the clear features of his youth.

“You... Xiao Yan?!” Looking at the young face, He Meng was stunned. His view quickly shifted away from the the youth to the massive ruler behind his back; narrowing his eyes, he coldly spoke out.

“What an honor, to be able to be remembered by the Third Company Leader.”

Lightly smiling, Xiao Yan’s palm slightly cupped before suddenly hitting the hilt of the long sword. It became a glint of cold steel, shooting forward like a lightning bolt towards He Meng.

The speed of the sword was quite fast and even though He Meng’s reactions weren’t slow, a wound was still left on his face.

Licking the blood that flowed from his face, a strong killing intent rose in He Meng’s eyes. Coldly laughing, “You sure are truly courageous, to the point of daring to assassinate me alone. But this is fine as well since I will do away with you right here. You are simply saving me the trouble of searching for you in the future.”

While speaking, He Meng lightly twisted his head and a light Dou Qi started to appear around his body. A clacking sound was emitted from between the bones of a pair of tightly clenched fists.

Looking at He Meng who entered his battle state, Xiao Yan helplessly shrugged. This guy’s adaptability to danger far outstripped his expectations, causing his ambush plan to fail.

However, the ambush came into being because of the fact that the lazy Xiao Yan wanted to save some energy. As this notion was completely dispelled, Xiao Yan didn’t care about spending a little more effort. After all, after his hard months of training, Xiao Yan definitely needed to

experience some battles to measure his improvement.

Xiao Yan body slightly twisted, causing his bones to create sounds that were not softer than He Meng's. Opening his palms slowly and then tightly closing them, a faded yellow Dou Qi began to appear from within his fists.

"Brat, deciding to treat me as your prey will be the stupidest decision of your life!" He Meng's lips rose with a bloody smile and his feet fiercely stepped on the ground to rush towards Xiao Yan like a massive monster.

Coldly looking at the beastly He Meng approaching, Xiao Yan's palms slowly stretched outwards. A moment after, they opened and he shouted, "Get lost!"

Following Xiao Yan's shout, a fierce and wild strength emerged from his palms and knocked heavily onto He Meng's body.

"Bang!"

There was a muffled sound and the bloodthirsty look on He Meng's face grew stale. The stature that was rushing forward flew back fiercely and his feet that were tightly clutching the ground caused a deep trench in the ground for a few meters before he slowly stopped.

"You sure have some skills brat." A heavy look of consideration appeared on He Meng's face. He slowly spat out a breath while his fist beat his chest. Slowly his skin that was originally old bronze in color, gradually became whiter.

"The Qi Method that I trained in is in the Rock Attribute which is known for its powerful defense. There is simply no way you can break through my defense by relying on your own power!" While coldly laughing, He Meng's fists tightened. On his arms, a ghastly white color was beginning to appear.

He Meng's feet once again stepping on the ground but his current speed was drastically faster than his previous speed. The wind pressure brought about by this new fierce speed caused the tent to shake.

Calmly facing the incoming fierce wind, Xiao Yan's body simply moved

slightly sideways as a fist with an enormous force floated by his face.

Xiao Yan's feet lightly slid across the ground as he appeared behind He Meng like a ghost. In return, his fist that held Dou Qi heavily smashed into He Meng's neck.

"Dang!" The fist smashed on He Meng's body, yet the only result was a clear sound similar to hitting a rock.

Xiao Yan's brows slightly wrinkled before he quickly withdrew his fists and lending upon his speed, used his elbows and knees to attack a moment later. Each hit would land on the same spot and briefly inside the tent, there was the continuous sound of beating rocks.

"Get lost, what an annoying fly. I said earlier that based on your current strength, you are still unable to break my Rock Qi defence!" He Meng delightedly laughed. His right foot bore a fierce and intense strength while he kicked backwards.

Meeting He Meng's foot with two palms, the tyrannical power behind the kick caused Xiao Yan's body to fly backwards.

"Befitting the reputation of one of the most physical type Dou Qi, this strength...is really strong." Xiao Yan was amazed. Flipping through the air, Xiao Yan steadily landed back on the ground and shook his slightly numb palms.

"Brat, with this little strength, you are deluded to oppose the Wolf Head Mercenary Company. You are simply looking for death!" He Meng patted the dust from his back and smiled sinisterly: "I don't have time to play with you. I'll just have to finish you off quickly so that you don't interrupt my pleasure."

He Meng spread his palm in front of his chest and bent his legs. The hair on his head stood up as an off-white Dou Qi flashed across his eyes.

A white colored gas was spat out from Mu She's mouth. At that moment, Xiao Yan noticed that He Meng's limbs had suddenly become much stiff than before.

The pale muscles on his naked arms continued to vibrate as a ferocious

strength began to quickly form with them.

“It’s over, brat!”

Feeling the gushing strength from within his body, He Meng grinned at Xiao Yan. Those white teeth of his carried a whiff of fierceness.

Staring at He Meng whose strength had suddenly rose significantly, Xiao Yan’s face became serious as Dou Qi began gathering around his hand.

After circulating the energy in his body, He Meng entered his peak state. His feet stepped off the ground and his speed exploded to the point that it was comparable to Xiao Yan’s.

Xiao Yan’s sight became momentarily blurry before He Meng’s sinister face suddenly appeared. His enormous fist carried the sound of incredible wind pressure as it viciously smashed towards Xiao Yan’s head.

The intense force above his head cause Xiao Yan’s expression to change. An explosive force blasted from Xiao Yan’s palm. With the aid of the repulsion created by the blast, Xiao Yan quickly retreated.

“Trying to escape?” Seeing the hastily retreating Xiao Yan, He Meng coldly laughed. He strided forward and caught up with Xiao Yan. He bent his body and like a creeping leopard, pounced in towards Xiao Yan.

“Go and die!” Grinning wickedly, He Meng’s fist once again furiously smashed downwards on Xiao Yan’s head.

Looking at this unavoidable situation, Xiao Yan’s brow wrinkled tightly. The Dou Qi inside his body started rapidly flowing, then he raised both fists and intercepted the deathly blow.

“Bang!”

A deep but muffled sound exploded within the tent. The strong gust of wind created by the clashing of the two enormous forces shaved off a layer of dirt off the ground where the two men came into contact.

“You dare to directly confront my attack? Get lost!”

Seeing that Xiao Yan chose to take his attack on directly, a cruelty flashed across He Meng’s eyes. All of the Dou Qi in him flowed within his

veins and exploded forth.

“Arr...” The enormous force caused Xiao Yan’s face to turn white as a weak groan escaped his throat. His footsteps quickly staggered backwards, stopping only when he reached the edge of the tent.

“I did not expect that you would be able to withstand a direct assault from me. You frequently train your body, don’t you?” Seeing that Xiao Yan appeared to have only received a slight injury, He Meng could not help but say with shock. It should be noted that the hardship one must endure to train the body was something that simply training Dou Qi cannot be compared with. Eyeing Xiao Yan’s tender body, it was difficult for He Meng to imagine that the former was someone who trained his body.

“Looks like without removing the restrictions, defeating an eight star Dou Zhe is still a little difficult...” Rubbing his chest that was a little choked, Xiao Yan suddenly mumbled softly and sighed.

Hearing Xiao Yan’s mumbling, He Meng brow wrinkled and he started coldly sneering.

Sighing while shaking his head, Xiao Yan, in front of He Meng, slowly removed the heavy ruler from his back and threw it to a side.

“Bang!” There was coincidentally a piece of hard rock where the heavy ruler landed and without any surprise, this rock was ground to dust under the horrifying weight of the heavy ruler.

Coldly staring at the pile of white powder, He Meng’s pupils shrank to the size of a pinhole and a sliver of fear slowly rose from within his heart and mind. This little brat, he was fighting while carrying such a heavy weapon.

Deeply breathing in the cold air, He Meng looked at the youth again and there was an extra weight of consideration and shock in his eyes.

Ignoring the changes in the other party’s eyes, Xiao Yan comfortably stretched his body, the Dou Qi surging in his body made him feel as if he was full of energy.

“I apologize. I was just warming up.” Raising his face, Xiao Yan had a

hint of apology on his face before his body suddenly flashed forwards.

The image in front of him flashed past and while He Meng was still unable to react, the youth's soft voice slowly reached his ears.

“This is the end, Wolf Head Mercenary Company's third captain....”

Chapter 126: Kill

Following a soft sound from behind him, an intense force suddenly appeared behind He Meng.

He Meng's face changed when he felt the strength of this force. He stomped on the ground, letting out an angry cry as a white color began to quickly spread all over his naked back.

"Octane Blast!"

Xiao Yan coldly called in his heart as he suddenly tightened his fist. His smooth sleeves emitted some paper like noises as it was shaken by the intense force. Xiao Yan's fist then violently shot forward. Within the short distance, the intense force that the fist carried emitted a sharp whistle of wind parting.

The sharp noise of the wind breaking behind him caused He Meng's face to turn aghast. This seemingly frail boy had actually trained his physical strength to such an extent?

"Clang!" A clear sound echoed throughout the tent. The sound, which lingered in the air for a while, was piercing to the ear.

An expressionless Xiao Yan smashed his right fist onto He Meng's back with great force. The ferocious force that was emitted from his feet directly blasted a half a metre wide hole in the ground around his feet.

"Crack..." A faint sound was accompanied by the appearance of many crack lines that gradually appeared and spread on He Meng's back. However, it was suppressed a moment later by the Dou Qi flowing in He Meng's body.

"I have already told you that you do not have the ability to break my defense." He Meng smiled thickly as he turned around.

"That may not be true..." Xiao Yan smiled and withdrew his hand that was pressed on He Meng's back. The corner of his mouth lifted as he whispered, "Explode!"

"Bang..."

A deep faint sound suddenly sounded from within He Meng's body, quickly hardening the smile on his face. A shocked expression soon replaced the smile.

"Urrr." A mouthful of fresh blood originating from the damaged internal organs was violently thrown up. He Meng's rock solid body subsequently fell feebly onto the ground.

Watching the life being rapidly drained from the corpse, Xiao Yan simply wiped his hand indifferently, turned around and left.

.....

The morning sunlight spilled from the sky and passed through the cover of the canopy before its scattered remains shined upon the quiet campsite under the trees.

Within the quiet campsite, some of the unconscious mercenaries suddenly opened their eyes in a confused manner. They slowly sat up and exchanged glances with one another. A little while later, an alertness abruptly appeared in the mercenaries who had just woken up. With great speed, they climbed to their feet and stared at the silent campsite. Finally, they grabbed their weapons and strode towards the tent located at the middle.

"Third Company Leader!" A mercenary shouted as he stood outside the tent. There was no reply.

Once again, the mercenaries waited in silence for another moment. An uneasiness finally crept into their hearts. With a large knife, one of the mercenaries stepped forward and slashed the drapes covering the tent apart.

The drapes gradually fell, revealing the scene within to everyone.

In the interior of the tent, He Meng was lying still on the ground with both his eyes open. On his face was a fear that would remain eternally. A thick pool of fresh blood formed on the floor. The sight constantly provoked the witnesses shocked hearts, which had already reached their limit.

“The Third Company Leader... was killed?”

The shocked faces of all who saw the tragic scene turned white and weak.

.....

“The Third Company Leader of the Wolf Head Mercenary Company was killed?”

“It is said that the one who did it was the young man whom they had put a bounty on.”

“Ha ha. Insider news. that young man who is called Xiao Yan had already killed nearly twenty members of the Wolf Head Mercenary Company.”

“Tsk tsk. The members of the Wolf Head Mercenary Company have lost all their face. Being thrown into such a mess by a boy younger than twenty... ha ha, let’s see if Mu She can continue acting arrogant.”

No one knew where the rumor originated from but within an afternoon, almost everyone in Qingshan Town knew about the matter of the Third Company Leader of the Wolf Head Mercenary Company being killed by Xiao Yan. Soon, numerous mocking eyes which wanted to see how things would play out began to turn towards the silent Wolf Head Mercenary Company.

In a small silent room, a lady in white was carefully mixing medicinal powder. But when she heard the news from the female servant outside, her hands froze causing the medicinal powder being mixed in her hands to instantly fail.

Gently shaking her head, the lady in white placed the small bottle on the table. Her bright eyes glanced around and a faint smile appeared on her beautiful face as she said in a low voice, “Xiao Yan, you have really started taking revenge.”

The Fairy Doctor’s hands straightened her white skirt as she elegantly sat on the chair. After which, she took out a seven colored scroll and pouted as she stroke it gently. “Since he’s able to kill He Meng, Xiao Yan’s

current strength should be around that of an eight star Dou Zhe. What a frightening training speed. It was only a couple of months since we last met...”

“Miss, Mister Yao would like to see you.” A gentle voice of a female servant sounded from outside the door.

Hearing this notice, the Fairy Doctor’s eyebrow straightened. Mister Yao was the one in charge of the ‘Thousand Medicinal House’. In the last few days, this guy had frequently come to look for her after hearing some rumors from the Wolf Head Mercenary Company. As for his intention, it was obvious even without voicing it.

“Let him in.” The Fairy Doctor made sure the seven colored scroll was properly hidden before she helplessly sighed. Since she was living under someone else’s roof, she had to give the due respect to the owner.

“Haha, have you been well recently Miss Fairy Doctor?” A short while after the female servant had conveyed the notice, a man in expensive clothes walked into the room with a smile as he greeted the Fairy Doctor.

The Fairy Doctor lifted her eyes and watched the middle aged man in front of her as she nodded her head. She stood up, turned around and bent down to pour two cups of tea on the table beside her.

Seated on the chair, Mister Yao looked at the beautiful angle the Fairy Doctor’s figure presented before staring intently at her extremely narrow waist. An unknown light flashed across his eyes.

At the moment when the Fairy Doctor turned around, Mister Yao appropriately withdrew his disrespectful gaze. The Fairy Doctor lifted the tea cup and lightly placed it on the table before moving her red lips and asked in a soft voice, “Is there a reason that you are looking for me, Mister Yao?”

“Haha.” Mister Yao smiled. Using both hands, he held his tea cup which had the remnants of heat left behind by the beautiful lady’s hand. Without anyone noticing, he rubbed the tea cup. He sipped tea and replied with a smile, “I assume that you have heard news about the person known as Xiao Yan?”

“Mmm.” The face of the Fairy Doctor was unaffected by the words and remained calm.

“He was with you when you entered the cave to look for treasure, wasn’t he?” A glint appeared in Mister Yao’s eyes as he suddenly asked.

“Mister Yao, I think you are mistaken,” The Fairy Doctor shook her head and replied with a smile, “I was indeed together with Xiao Yan before but that was because he had luckily helped me when I almost fell off a cliff while picking medicinal herbs. As for searching for treasure in a cave, I’m sorry, but we did not find any treasure. However, I’ve heard that the Wolf Head Mercenary Company suddenly left us on the way back. It seems that they had found something.”

“If Mister Yao is interested in treasure, you can get the leaders of the two other large mercenary companies to go and look at the things that the Wolf Head Mercenary Company brought back.” The Fairy Doctor maintained her smile as she suggested.

Hearing this, Mister Yao’s face changed. He instantly responded, “It was just a random question. Hehe. Since you are acquainted with Xiao Yan, you should invite him to our ‘Thousand Medicinal House’ if you see him again. Although the strength of the Wolf Head Mercenary Company is large, our ‘Thousand Medicinal House’ would not lose to them.”

“If there’s an opportunity to, I will help you convey the message. It is just that I am barely acquainted with him so Mister Yao should not expect too much.” The Fairy Doctor carelessly said.

“Haha, alright. Then I will not disturb you. I’ll go out and settle some work.” Nodding with a smile, Mister Yao made some small talk with the Fairy Doctor before getting up and bidding her goodbye.

Watching the room’s door gradually closing, the Fairy Doctor glanced at the tea cup which Mister Yao had drank from and mumbled, “It looks like he has not gotten rid of his intention. Ah, I hope that you will not do anything to disappoint me. I may not be very strong but... do you really think that you can simply drink the tea that I brew.”

An image of a black clothed young man flashed in her mind as the Fairy

Doctor gently tapped the dark green tea cup. Her red lips rose, "You are the first man who has undergone thick and thin with me. Please don't die in this small little Qingshan Town..."

.....

A lifeless corpse was placed in the middle of the hall that was shrouded by a gloomy atmosphere. The face of the corpse was that of the Third Company Leader who had died by Xiao Yan's hands.

Everyone in the hall remained silent as they eyed He Meng's corpse. None of them dared to even emit the slightest sound because they could feel the chilly killing intent from the man seated in the leader's chair.

"I want to tear that little bastard into a thousand pieces!"

Mu She stared at the corpse with bloodied eyes as he clenched his teeth audibly; an explosive anger that was suppressed could be heard in his thick voice.

Astonishment and fear flashed across Mu Li's narrow eyes as he eyed the cold corpse beside him. The boy whom he had chased all over the mountain a few months ago had actually grown to such an extent. As the third strongest person in the Wolf Head Mercenary Company, He Meng's strength was something that Mu Li was certain of. However, this strong person whom even he was afraid of, was killed by a young man who was not even twenty. This dream like reality prompted a fear of the Xiao Yan to rise in Mu Li's heart and stoked his ferocious killing intent.

This kind of enemy.... must be killed at all cost!

Gradually raising his head, Mu Li exchanged glances with Mu She seated on the leader's chair. In the eyes of both the father and son, who possessed similar characters, was a mutual, strengthened killing intent.

"The fact that Xiao Yan could kill He Meng means that his strength is around that of an eight star Dou Zhe. Moreover, He Meng possesses a High Huang Rock Qi Method and is familiar with two other High Huang Dou Techniques, which would placed him amongst the stronger ones when compared with others of the same grade. However, he was still

killed by Xiao Yan. It looks like this guy possesses Dou Techniques and Qi Methods that are of a higher level.” Mu She’s voice was filled with an evil coldness.

“From tomorrow onwards, all the members who are five star Dou Zhe or stronger will remove their Wolf Head badge and act as independent mercenaries. We will split into five man teams and enter the Magic Beast Mountain Range. If anyone finds any traces of Xiao Yan, immediately use the bamboo whistle to communicate!” Mu She’s face was cold and serious as he gave the order.

“Yes sir!” The people gathered under him replied in union.

“I don’t believe that that little bastard will be able to escape from my hands!” Mu She’s hands slowly tightened as he coldly laughed.

“Little bastard, your impudent days are over.”

Chapter 127: The Huge Encirclement

Clear and cold moonlight slowly spilled from the heavens, covering the entire forest in a faint and mysterious net of silver.

“Hiss.....”

On one of the mountain tops, a young man tightly gripped onto a branch so hard that veins surfaced all over his arm, his forehead was covered in cold sweat while he was biting tightly down on his sleeve.

The bare back of the young man was lathered with a red liquid, while a somewhat illusionary looking old man was currently using a jade plate to slowly spread the liquid. Every time his hand moved to spread the liquid, the young man's body jerked violently.

Only when the old man had spread the red liquid until it completely covered the back of the young man did the old man grudgingly stop. Lowering his head to gaze at the youth who was in so much pain that his face had cramped up, the old man cheerfully laughed and mocked, “Isn't it comfortable?”

“Comfortable, my a**!” A burning pain emitted from Xiao Yan's back, causing him to immediately curse out; he was already mentally scarred by the burning pain.

“Hehe,” Yao Lao chuckled as he looked down to gaze as the red liquid did it's work on Xiao Yan's back before slightly nodding and then inquiring: “Well? Have you become aware of the threshold to the seven star Dou Zhe yet?”

Hearing these words, Xiao Yan rolled his eyes, lips curling as he grudgingly answered, “It has only been a month since I've advanced to a six star Dou Zhe, how is it be possible for me to continue and reach the threshold of seven stars so quickly? The last three stars of every rank are the hardest to breakthrough.”

“From the time we left on this journey till now, it has almost been five months and there is less than a year of time left till the promise you made

with the girl from the Misty Cloud Faction.” Yao Lao smiled as he indifferently said.

Slightly dazed, Xiao Yan licked his lips, frowning as he said, “I wonder what level she is at now. Two years ago she was already a three star Dou Zhe and according to her potential and the power of the Misty Cloud Faction, I don’t think that she will be any weaker than me.”

“Indeed, although I have many means to abruptly make your strength soar, there will be exceptionally strong repercussions. If these secret methods are used, I’m afraid that you will forever be stuck at that level.” Yao Lao slowly explained as he glanced towards the silent Xiao Yan before continuing, “I will never let you use those secret methods, even if you are eventually defeated by that girl, the price will still be too high.”

“With regards to the three year promise, I don’t plan on losing to her. You also know how much I have suffered during these two years..... She is the reason why I have managed to endure all of the hardships and bitter training.” Xiao Yan flipped his body and raised his head to gaze at the silver moon in the night skies, reaching out a palm as he narrowed his eyes before voicing out in an icy-cold tone.

Slowly spitting out a sigh, Xiao Yan leaned his head to look upon the somewhat illusionary figure of Yao Lao, twitching his mouth as he said, “And initially teacher agreed that he will help me catch up to her.”

“You brat.....” Eyeing the playful rascal Xiao Yan, Yao Lao helplessly shook his head. As he stretched forward his palm, a white and cold flame appeared at the center of his palm. Staring at the ball flame as it gracefully danced about, a faint smile formed on his aged face, “Fret not, if I do not even have this little bit of ability, I would not have the face to boast in front of you.”

“I can help you raise your strength, however, that is only if you have the time to follow my instructions to train. Since you keep being hounded all over the mountains, you’ve wasted much of your already precious time.” Yao Lao bantered.

Rolling his eyes, Xiao Yan spread out his arms and helplessly said,

“Actually teacher only needs to fart to completely wipe them out, however you refuse to make a move.”

“Pa!” A palm smacked the back of Xiao Yan’s head as Yao Lao smiled while scolding, “If I settle every single problem for you, what is the point of living? Is struggling against others not a way for you to gain wisdom and experience?”

Xiao Yan shrugged his shoulders before once again flipping his body around. Vexed, he groaned before cursing to himself, “Those bastards, sooner or later I will get rid of all of them, this is such a waste of my time.....”

Xiao Yan coughed dryly before he suddenly once again bit onto his sleeve and said in a muffled voice, “Teacher, continue.....”

“Eh?” At these words, Yao Lao was slightly shocked, “You can still endure?”

“Ai, I don’t have much time to rest.....” The young man buried his head into his clothes as he replied in a muffled tone.

Gazing at the young man who had once again braced himself, Yao Lao was dazed for a split second. The stubborn temperament hidden deep within the very core of the youngster caused a gratified expression to surface on his face, with a small smile, he nodded and once again retrieved a bottle of “Burning Blood” from the Storage Ring before tilting it.

“Hiss.....”

In the quiet night, the trembling misty breaths that escaped from between the young man’s teeth slowly circled around without dissipating.

.....

The blazing rays of the sun penetrated through the branches, leaving behind countless tiny spots of light in the dense forest, a dazzlingly beautiful scene.

Xiao Yan’s body was curled up in a concealed spot of the forest as he tightly knitted his brows together as he gazed at a group of mercenaries

nearby. This place was the main road into the Magic Beast Mountain Range. Although normally there were quite a few mercenaries passing through, today, Xiao Yan could faintly feel that something was wrong.

Xiao Yan's line of sight passed through the brush to stare firmly at the passing mercenaries. A long time later, his pupil's suddenly shrunk, he finally understood why he had felt something was wrong.

Many of the teams passing by below looked as if they had been only just temporarily brought together. Yet as they moved out, they tended to display habits that are only shown after a long amount of time and practice together.

"It truly seems that something is wrong....." Eyebrows tightly knitted together, Xiao Yan spit out the grassroots in his mouth. His eyes turned to look about before he cautiously burrowed out of the brush and quietly made his way into the forest.

Xiao Yan's clothes were smeared with green stripes that were from grass juices which allowed him to be extremely safe as he hid himself in the forest.

Hidden in a secret spot within the dense forest, Xiao Yan once again saw two to three waves of five man teams. Hiding while carefully observing the movements of these mercenary teams, a moment later, Xiao Yan could finally confirm that these mercenaries who looked like they were here to capture Magic Beasts were actually looking for something else.....

Borrowing the cover of the thicket and the smell of the plant juice on his body to conceal himself, Xiao Yan successfully evaded these mercenary teams and the Magic Beasts wandering about in the forest.

After half an afternoon of investigation all over the forest, by chance, Xiao Yan finally understood the identity of these small teams of mercenaries.

"Wolf Head Mercenaries.....Tch tch, looks like by killing their so called third commander, I've really stepped onto a hornet's nest." Knowing this news caused Xiao Yan to be slightly stunned.

“Goddamnit, hiding for an afternoon and holding back my anger, you all deserve to have bad luck.....” Hidden in the shadows, Xiao Yan gazed at a five man team who were gradually entering into the dense forest as he quietly sneered.

This team had been observed by Xiao Yan for a long time. There were five five star Dou Zhes and Xiao Yan felt like he could dispatch them all, furthermore. And because they entered into the dense forest, he did not need to fear that he would be seen by the other teams and then surrounded like a dumpling.

Tailing this team into the dense forest, Xiao Yan was not so stupid as to immediately make his move from the front. Sneakily hiding in a thicket on one side, like a viper stalking it's prey, he patiently and quietly waited.....

After Xiao Yan followed the team for a length of distance, the team finally stopped their progress to rest. When resting, one of the mercenaries left his companions and slowly walked towards a small bush.

Turning to stand behind a big tree, just as the mercenary got ready, a darkness fell over his eyes followed by a pain on his neck as his consciousness quickly faded away.....

Not long after the mercenary left to relieve himself, a shout that had gone off-key due to panic sounded, “There’s a Magic Beast, a rank three Magic Beast!”

Hearing his shout, the few mercenaries who had just finished their break were suddenly jolted. One of the them turned to face their companion who had his head bowed and was escaping over to their direction before light heartedly scolding, “Damn you, were you sucked dry by a woman last night? This is the outer area of the Magic Beast Mountain Range, how can there be a rank three Magic Beast.....”

Before the scolding voice faded away, the mercenary with his head lowered had already rushed to his front. A cold light abruptly shot out as the scolding that had yet to be completely finished by the mercenary was cut short in his throat.

Dispatching one of the mercenaries in a flash, the figure with his head

lowered suddenly moved. With a lift of his palm a ferocious sucking force pulled the furthest mercenary, who still had a blank look on his face, towards him.

The dagger in his hand fiercely shot out, ruthlessly landing on the neck of the mercenary who had just been pulled over.

“It’s Xiao Yan! Xiao Yan!!”

In a brief ten seconds, the lives of the two fifth star Dou Zhe were easily ended by the disguised Xiao Yan. Finally, the other two mercenaries had regained their wits; the older mercenary suddenly kicked his companion beside him towards the swiftly approaching Xiao Yan before quickly drawing a short flute from his cuff and placing it into his mouth. Before he could blow into it, he was interrupted by a black figure that appeared in a flash before him, ruthlessly landing a vicious kick on his chest.

“Pu chi.” Blood violently sprayed from his mouth. Borrowing the pushing force from the Qi energy, the older mercenary’s body flew through the air, tracing out a parabola and with the last bit of strength within his body, he blew the whistle in his mouth, emitting a short but intense sound wave.

The sound wave was sent out from the short flute before spreading out in all directions.

With a gloomy expression, Xiao Yan’s hand raised and the sword fell as Xiao Yan ended the last breath of the dying mercenary. Lifting his head to gaze outside of the dense forest, there, figures were starting to fly over.

“Crap, I’ve underestimated these guys,” Xiao Yan cursed out in a low voice before he turned to run.

“Ji ji.....” When Xiao Yan turned to flee, outside the dense forest behind him, many whistle sounds continuously sounded out. At this time, all of the mercenaries were rapidly rushing towards the direction of the dense forest.

“Catch him!”

Behind him, a large group of mercenaries desperately chased after the faintly discernable figure in front of them as shouts continuously sounded

out in the dense forest.

“God, the stakes are really high now.” Glancing towards the large group of mercenaries chasing him, the corners of Xiao Yan’s mouth pulled taunt. Somewhat depressed, he shook his head before borrowing the green streaks on his body as cover to continuously flee through the underbrush.

Once again running a length of distance, Xiao Yan’s complexion suddenly changed. Turning his head, Xiao Yan saw that at the front of the group of mercenaries, a middle aged man with a gloomy complexion was madly rushing towards him at breakneck speeds. Seeing Xiao Yan turn his head, a vicious smile appeared on the middle aged man’s face. A low roar, passed through the underbrush and tunnelled into Xiao Yan’s ear.

“Little bastard! Today your body will be buried within this Magic Beast Mountain Range!”

Chapter 128: Killers' Chase

The calmness of the Magic Beast Mountain Range was disrupted by the sudden chase. Numerous loud cries and sounds of the pursuit reverberated throughout the calm mountain range.

Due to the sheer size of the group involved in the chase, even the mercenaries who were hunting for Magic Beasts paused their footsteps and stared at the vast group that rushed passed them.

Being curious, some of the mercenaries joined the large group and began running. They wanted to see just who could attract such a large scale attack.

“Catch Xiao Yan. That guy has a Xuan class Qi Method with him!”

During the chase, Mu She opened his mouth and yelled after noticing that there were many mercenary troops standing at the side observing.

Upon hearing their Company Leader yell, the Wolf Head Mercenary Company behind also intelligently began to repeat their leader's words. Instantly, the cry of Xiao Yan possessing a Xuan Tier Qi Method was spread throughout the entire mountain range.

Once the words 'Xuan Tier Qi Method' entered their ears, almost all of the mercenaries halted their work and exchanged greedy glances with one another.

After a brief silence, someone was finally unable to resist the temptation of a Xuan Tier Qi Method. He grabbed his weapon and began chasing the disappearing and appearing shadow a good distance away.

With someone taking the lead, the surrounding mercenaries that were hesitating also quickened their footsteps and shouted as they joined the troop giving chase.

The cries from behind him also entered Xiao Yan's ears. After a brief glance at the enlarging chase party him, the color of his face changed as he softly cursed, “What a vicious bastard.”

Xiao Yan fled through the dense forest with quick footsteps as he

glanced at his surroundings. After which, he dashed towards the regions with the most frequent appearance of Magic Beasts.

“Come at me. I want to see whether there are more of you or more Magic Beasts in the Magic Beast Mountain Range.” With a laugh, Xiao Yan once again lowered his head and charged ahead.

“Brat. Let’s see how you’re going to escape today.” From behind Xiao Yan, Mu She’s cold voice which was accompanied by Dou Qi was like a lion’s roar echoing throughout the dense forest.

Xiao Yan simply ignored this meaningless threat and instead simply focused on rushing forward.

Seeing how Xiao Yan ignored his cry, the corner of Mu She’s mouth twitched. His shrunken eyes focused on the figure ahead that was slowly increasing his lead and frowned. Xiao Yan’s speed had indeed exceeded his expectations.

Mu She slowly released his breath and shook his body. A faint green Dou Qi quickly covered his entire frame. A soft deep voice vibrated from his throat, “Huang Dou Technique: ‘Soaring Wind Steps’!”

Following Mu She’s voice, a large amount of green Dou Qi suddenly poured from his feet and wisps of wind formed beneath his two feet.

When his feet stepped on the ground, Mu She’s body suddenly shot forward. His speed was more than double what it had been.

“Dammit!” The sound of the wind breaking that originated behind him caused Xiao Yan to hurriedly turn his head. He could not help but be shocked when he saw Mu She furiously speeding towards him. Lifting his finger, Xiao Yan drew an ‘Energy Recovery Pill’ into his palm which he quickly swallowed. The Dou Qi in his body that had been depleted was gradually recovered.

“I will definitely kill you today!” Seeing that the distance between him and Xiao Yan was narrowing, a sinister killing intent surfaced on Mu She’s face as he said thickly.

“Kill your mother, you big headed ghost.” Xiao Yan turned around and

scolded before waving his right hand to the back. A vicious and shapeless force gushed out from his hand.

“Hmm!” The force may have been shapeless but Mu She could feel the wind pressure caused by it. Without any delay, he coldly snorted and threw a powerful punch forward. Immediately, a ferocious force surfaced in front of him and exploded forward. Finally, it crashed into the shapeless force.

“Bang!”

The smashing of the two intense forces directly shaved a layer off the grass surfaced forest. Some of the weak tree trunks were also broken.

“You do have some power, no wonder you are so impudent.” Mu She’s eyes were filled with surprise after their first exchange. He laughed coldly before violently stepping off the ground once again and shooting his body forward by over ten meters.

“Brat, this is the end!” After a few repeated footsteps, Mu She was getting increasingly closer to Xiao Yan. He fiercely laughed as he observed the young man running with all his might.

“End your mother...” Xiao Yan mouth was filled with vulgar words, angering the chasing Mu She to the extent that the latter’s face changed color.

Tilting his head, Xiao Yan glanced at the dark faced Mu She who was catching up. Not far behind him was the huge mercenary crowd chasing after him.

Helplessly sighing, Xiao Yan tightly pressed his lips together and with two hands, removed the Heavy Xuan Ruler from his back. His footsteps became heavier as he pulled the ruler off his back, flicked his wrist and stored it into the storage ring.

“You can slowly chase me. I’m not going play with you!” After turning around and mocking coldly, Xiao Yan forcefully stepped on the ground. His speed suddenly shot up. With the green colored striped clothes, he quickly turned into a green shadow, fleeing into the dark dense forest like a green leopard.

Mu She's face changed as he saw Xiao Yan speed suddenly increase. Instantly, he felt the situation was a little unbelievable. Even with his strength of a two star Dou Shi and his agility Dou Technique, he was still unable to catch up with a mere Dou Zhe. This was a huge blow to him.

"Looks like he obtained quite a lot from the cave." Being unable to understand Xiao Yan's background, Mu She could only associate this abnormal occurrence to the mysterious treasure in the mountain cave. At the same time he thought of this reasoning, Mu She's determination to kill Xiao Yan grew a little more firm.

Raising his head and watching Xiao Yan disappearing into the dense forest, the speed of Mu She's feet once again increased significantly as he charged into the dark and chilly woods.

Just as he entered the woods, a force that was carrying a pungent wind shot towards him. The color of Mu She's face sank. He pulled out a scimitar from his waist, allowed his Dou Qi to agglomerate before furiously slashing at his front.

"Swash..." The sound of a sharp edge cutting into meat was depressing and piercing to the ear.

"Squeak!" A shrill sound escaped as the thing which Mu She's scimitar came into contact with was a rank one Magic Beast, Bloodthirsty Mouse.

Mu She expressionlessly shook the Bloodthirsty Mouse off of his blade as he watched the shadow a good distance ahead running within the dense forest. He moved his feet and was about to give chase when another ten plus Bloodthirsty Mice pounced on him.

Being halted by these Bloodthirsty Mice who were a little smaller than half the size of a person caused Mu She's face to become awful. These things may not be able to hurt him but they would be able to slow down his chase.

Just as Mu She felt a headache, the large crowd of mercenaries behind him caught up. When they saw that their Company Leader was being blocked by a group of Bloodthirsty Mice, they immediately drew their weapons and intercepted the group of ten plus Bloodthirsty Mice.

“Chase!” After kicking away a Bloodthirsty Mouse that pounced at him, Mu She waved his hand and coldly ordered.

Following Mu She’s order, another unceasing chase began once again.

Under the act of fleeing and chasing, the peaceful mountain range was turned into a mess. As the source of all this, Xiao Yan shamelessly dragged the inhabitants of the mountain range into it. Hence, the mercenaries who were giving chase behind him not only failed to hurt Xiao Yan but were subjected to numerous injuries caused by the attacks of various Magic Beasts.

After the chase went on for nearly an entire afternoon, there were finally some mercenaries who could no longer endure this aimless chase and began to drop out from the crowd . As more mercenaries dropped out, the crowd giving chase began to shrink. At the end, there were only the Wolf Head Mercenary Company and some mercenaries who were overwhelmed by the desire for a Xuan Qi Method and continued to endure the chase.

After striding with a somewhat numbed pair of legs as he ran for some distance, Xiao Yan raised his head and gazed at the unsteady crescent moon in the sky. He could not help but let out a bitter laugh. The perseverance of those people behind him went beyond his expectations.

“It seems like we are entering the inner region of the Magic Beast Mountain Range. This bastard. Isn’t he afraid of meeting a high level Magic Beast?” Shaking his head despondently, Xiao Yan turned his head and glanced at the dense face of Mu She. He pulled at the corner of his lips and cursed, “Crazy fellow.”

Mu She’s eyes were fixated on the black figure which was appearing and disappearing ahead of him. An anxiety was surfacing in his heart. If they continued to give chase, they would end up entering the inner regions of the Magic Beast Mountain Range. When that time came, that guy could randomly choose a direction and hide but they would not be able to do so with so many people.

Just as his heart was hesitating on whether he should withdraw, Mu She suddenly realized that the shadow which was running in front of him had

came to an abrupt halt. He was momentarily stunned before an unrestrained happiness surfaced on his face. His feet took a step and his body sprung forward.

When he closed in on the figure, Mu She realised that a short distance away was an abyss which was tens of meters wide. Beyond which was the inner region of the Magic Beast Mountain Range.

“Death Abyss...ha ha, Xiao Yan, the chase is over!”

Mu She said sinisterly as he gradually came to a stop a short distance from Xiao Yan. He waved his hand and the men behind him quickly formed a semicircle, surrounding Xiao Yan.

Facing the abyss with an awful color on his face, Xiao Yan could only bitterly smile and shake his head. There were only two paths into the inner regions of the Magic Beast Mountain Range. Other than these two paths, the other places were surrounded by the abyss. He did not expect that his random fleeing would end up with him being stuck here.

“Xiao Yan, hand over what you have obtained from the cave!” Mu She stepped forward and chillingly said.

“Should I really pass it to you?” Xiao Yan’s gaze swept across those independent mercenaries before suddenly smiling at Mu She.

Upon hearing Xiao Yan’s words, the expression of the surrounding mercenaries became unnatural. Many of them were independent mercenaries who had spent considerable effort giving chase. They did not want all the benefit to be given to the Wolf Head Mercenary Company.

Mu She stared coldly at Xiao Yan, clearly understanding Xiao Yan’s intention to play them against one another. He swept his gaze around him and said, “Everyone, Xiao Yan has killed dozens of people belonging to the Wolf Head Mercenary Company. Even He Meng also died to his hands. This blood score is something that he will pay for with his life. As for the thing that he obtained from the mountain cave, that was originally something my son had found. Today, we are only taking back what belongs to us. I hope that none of you will hinder us. When everything is settled, I will provide a hefty reward.”

When Mu She's words left his mouth, everyone understood his intention. It was obvious that he was intending to pocket everything...

Mu She swept his piercing gaze across the independent mercenaries. He waved his hand and the members of the Wolf Head Mercenary Company quickly pulled out their weapons from their waist. After which, they coldly stared at those independent mercenaries who were still thinking, their killing intent was clear.

With the Wolf Head Mercenary Company outnumbering them, these independent mercenaries, regardless of how reluctant they felt, could only unwillingly step back

After scaring off these independent mercenaries, Mu She finally shifted his cold gaze back onto Xiao Yan. He tightened his grip on the scimitar in his hand and slowly walked towards Xiao Yan, who had his back facing the abyss.

"If you hand the things over now, I'll let you have a painless death!"

Eyeing the sinister face Mu She, Xiao Yan simply shrugged his shoulders and sighed. He flicked his palm, causing a huge black colored heavy ruler to appear in his hand. He lifted his palm and supported it with his shoulder. He then lifted his head slightly, revealing a faint smile.

"If you have the guts, come and get it!"

Chapter 129: One-on-One Fight with a Dou Shi

Eyeing the young man who had abruptly calmed down, Mu She pressed his eyebrows together and tightly held the scimitar in his hand as he coldly mocked, "I don't believe that you can grow wings today and fly away!"

Striding forward, Mu She slowly headed towards Xiao Yan. When he was close enough, his feet suddenly stomped on the ground and his body shot forward. The scimitar in his hand slashed furiously at Xiao Yan.

Feeling the force of the sharp wind breaking in front of him, Xiao Yan's face became serious. A Dou Shi and a Dou Zhe were basically two different categories. With his current strength it would be difficult for him to even last ten rounds under Mu She's attack.

Relying on his outstanding dodging ability, Xiao Yan slightly shifted his body and took a few hurried steps back, avoiding Mu She's attack which had been aimed to feel out Xiao Yan's strength. Xiao Yan's feet interwound and strangely appeared at Mu She's left. The Dou Qi in his body flowed as he lifted the Heavy Xuan Ruler with his right hand and violently smashed at Mu She's head.

The furious force above Mu She did not cause him to panic. He lifted the scimitar in his hand and fiercely slashed it over his head.

"Clang!" The black ruler and the scimitar clashed, sending sparkles flying. A clear metal sound echoed in the abyss.

During the first time that he exchanged blows with a Dou Shi, Xiao Yan experienced the extent of the force of the Dou Qi belonging to a Dou Shi. The force that was transmitted through the Heavy Xuan Ruler was enough to propel him to take a couple of steps back.

Compared with the numerous steps Xiao Yan took, Mu She's action appeared much more at ease, having only taken half a step back before his body gradually ceased moving.

“Company Leader, kill him! Take revenge for the Third Company Leader!”

“Kill him!” Seeing that Xiao Yan was at a disadvantage after one blow, the surrounding Wolf Head Mercenaries immediately began crying excitedly.

“What a heavy weapon!” With a shocked gaze, Mu She stared intently at the Heavy Xuan Ruler in Xiao Yan’s hands. He sighed and shook his head as he coldly spoke while staring at Xiao Yan, “If this is all you have, you should just quickly hand the treasure over.”

Flicking his somewhat numb hand, Xiao Yan stared at Mu She with deep and cold eyes. He slowly raised the heavy ruler in his hand and let out a long, dragged out breath. Next, he closed his eyes in front of everyone.

Seeing Xiao Yan’s strange behavior, Mu She frowned, uncertain about what the former was attempting to do.

The surrounding mercenaries were also stunned by Xiao Yan. A moment later, however, they simply folded their arms. The mocking gaze they had was like watching a mouse falling into the paws of a cat and suffering an inevitable death. In their eyes, there was no way Xiao Yan would be able to escape from the hands of a two star Dou Shi regardless of how much he struggled.

As his gaze coldly stared at the closed-eyed Xiao Yan, an uneasiness appeared in Mu She’s heart. This was especially so when he suddenly felt the surge in the surrounding energy become more violent. This uneasiness instantly appeared on his face.

Feeling uneasy, Mu She held his scimitar and carefully stepped towards Xiao Yan. He was no confident because of the difference in their ranks.

Seeing Mu She’s serious expression, the surrounding mercenaries also began to feel that something was amiss. They exchanged glances and unconsciously tightened the grip on their weapons.

“Trying to act all mysterious, go die!” Once again, Mu She stepped forward and entered his attacking range. A menacing look appeared on his

face. Without hesitating, he wielded the scimitar in hand and slashed at Xiao Yan throat.

“Too late...” The pair of tightly shut eyes suddenly opened as Xiao Yan’s mouth spat out the two words. The Heavy Xuan Ruler in his hand was abruptly lifted. An extreme heat that was under the control of Xiao Yan for the first time appeared on the ruler’s surface.

“Flame Splitting Tsunami!”

Following Xiao Yan’s cry in his heart, the heaven and earth energy above the abyss suddenly surged. Visible energy crazily poured into the Heavy Xuan Ruler in Xiao Yan’s hand as though something was towing them.

With the uncontrolled pouring of energy, the intense heat that was emitted from the surface of the Heavy Xuan Ruler grew increasingly hotter. At the same time, the strange lines on the ruler also released a fiery red light.

After the cry in his heart, the Dou Qi in Xiao Yan’s body began to flow outwards like a rising tide. In just a second, his body that was filled with Dou Qi became empty.

Feeling that the Dou Qi in his body was about to be exhausted, Xiao Yan quickly swallowed the ‘Energy Recovery Pill’ that he had previously placed in his mouth.

With the support of the Dou Qi created by the ‘Energy Recovery Pill’, Xiao Yan gained the remaining strength to unleash the attack. The Heavy Xuan Ruler which had already turned into a fiery red color with a exceedingly high temperature was drawn through the air and slashed towards Mu She with his shock filled face.

From a distance, the air that the ruler’s body passed through appeared distorted as though something was steaming.

After Xiao Yan inputted the last thread of Dou Qi into the Heavy Xuan Ruler, the tip of the ruler flashed. A five foot long crescent red light was unleashed from the ruler like lightening. Accompanied by an incredibly high temperature, it ferociously hacked toward Mu She.

A flashing red light appeared in Mu She's eyes. When the crescent red light was unleashed, Mu She's eyes had already narrowed to the size of a needle head. Dou Qi condensing into a shape outside the body? This was something that would require at least the strength of a Da Dou Shi in order to succeed. How did this brat in front of him who was only a Dou Zhe release such a perfect Dou Qi condensation attack?

The shock in his heart lasted only momentarily. Mu She did not have the time to give thought to this question. The Dou Qi in his body flowed violently and a pale green colored Dou Qi covered his scimitar much like sticking a layer of green energy onto the surface of the blade.

“Dancing Wind Blade!”

After releasing a deep breath, the scimitar in Mu She's hand suddenly began to dance crazily. Numerous green colored shadows of the scimitar continued to appear in front of him. In the eyes of others, it was as though Mu She had formed a web of knives.

This ‘Dancing Wind Blade’ was the highest level Dou Technique that Mu She could use, Low Xuan level. By relying on this Dou Technique, he had taken the title of the strongest in Qingshan Town. When facing this unknown and mysterious attack, the ever cautious Mu She used his strongest move in order to play it safe.

The red crescent light arrived in a flash. Before the surrounding mercenaries could observe what the red light was, a thunder like explosion suddenly sounded above the abyss.

“Bang!”

As the thunder like sound died off, the soil where Mu She stood was scattered throughout the air. After which, a shadow was suddenly shot out of the scattered soil. The shadow's legs dragged the soil beneath it as the shadow was pushed back for over ten meters before landing heavily on a huge tree. Instantly, the tree burst. Only then did the human shadow gradually come to a stop. When everyone gazed at the shadow figure, they instantly took in a gulp of cold air. The shadow figure whose appearance was in a mess was actually the two star Dou Shi, Mu She!

Staring intently at Mu She, whose face appeared white and frightened, everyone swallowed their saliva. Next, they coincidentally shifted their gaze towards the spot where the soil was scattered everywhere, finding numerous crack lines spreading from it. These crack lines finally came to a gradual stop after spreading for over ten meters. At the center where the crack lines originated, a hole one meter deep and half a meter wide appeared before their eyes.

Above the abyss, all was silent. Everyone stared at the glaring hole and then at the pale faced Mu She before feeling a wave of dizziness.

How did someone with the strength of approximately an eight star Dou Zhe was actually able to turn a two star Dou Shi who had invoked a Low Xuan Dou Technique into such a terrible state?

The brutal reality caused the corner of everyone's mouth to twitch like they were suffering from a stroke.

The scattered soil finally settled down, gradually revealing the figure of a young man wielding a heavy ruler in his hand.

The young man's face was similarly pale. His hands tightly held the black ruler as his black eyes emitted a fanaticism that caused others to shiver.

Although using this Di Dou Technique had almost caused Xiao Yan to experience a dangerous backlash of not spending more Dou Qi than he actually had, Xiao Yan was extremely satisfied with the strength that it unleashed. The gap between a Dou Zhe and a Dou Shi was easily filled by the frightening strength of this Di Dou Technique.

After violently coughing a few times, Xiao Yan once again took out an 'Energy Recovery Pill' and quickly threw it in his mouth. He swept a thick and cold gaze across the surrounding mercenaries. With the earlier terrifying display, all the gazes that he met quickly avoided him out of fear.

"Kill him! Do it!"

Mu She violently pushing away the mercenary supporting him. The

center of his palm had already burst apart and fresh blood dripped all over his clothes. His face had a menacing look that appeared almost insane. The strength that Xiao Yan had displayed had already caused a terror to rise in the heart of this experienced Company Leader.

With his young age, Xiao Yan had shown to have incredible growth speed. On top of it, he possessed a mysterious yet tremendously powerful Dou Technique. This kind of enemy... was everyone's nightmare. If there was a medicine that could go back and undo what he did, Mu She would have rather not provoked this mysterious young man.

Of course, such a medicine did not exist in this world. Thus, the fear in Mu She's heart was naturally transformed into a fanatic killing intent. Only by killing Xiao Yan could he find peace. At this moment, Mu She was even willing to abandon the treasure that Xiao Yan possessed.

"Kill him! He has exhausted all his energy!" Mu She cried with all his strength.

Hearing the Company Leader's order, the surrounding hesitating mercenaries could only tightly grip their weapons and carefully engulf Xiao Yan as they advanced towards him.

"You must die today!" Mu She threatening voice cried as he stared intently at the young man standing by the cliff's edge.

"I'm sorry but I'm afraid you will not get what you wish for."

Xiao Yan lifted his head at Mu She's face which was distorted with a sinister expression. A flush appeared on Xiao Yan's white face. His body slightly trembled as half a meter wide pitch-black eagle wings suddenly sprung from his back.

When they saw the eagle wings on Xiao Yan's back, everyone was once again stunned.

The pair of wings on Xiao Yan's back flapped and he suddenly leaped into the abyss. Under the stunned gazes of everyone, Xiao Yan flapped his wings a couple more times as he flew unevenly towards the cliff on the other side.

“I will remember today’s attempt to kill me and will definitely repay you for it in the future.”

The young man’s back disappeared into the darkness but his bland and cold laughter continued to echo through the air.

Chapter 130: Breakthrough to Seven Star

Controlling his staggering body, Xiao Yan trembled with fear as he flew tens of meters across the deep abyss. When he reached the other side, he did not even have the time to descend before his body informed him that he was out of Dou Qi and he quickly retracted the Ziyun Wings on his back.

Immediately, in mid air, the figure of a person let out a sorrowful scream before falling down in a straight line, perpendicularly, into a soft meadow.

The body which had already reached its limit, once again sustained damage from the fall causing Xiao Yan to black out and finally lose consciousness.

Only after Xiao Yan lost consciousness did Yao Lao drift out from the ring. Gazing at the ragged Xiao Yan, he could not help but shake his head in helplessness. With both arms, he supported Xiao Yan before slowly moving towards the deepest part of the Magic Beast Mountain Range.

“To go as far as to forcefully use the Di Dou Technique, truly a reckless guy.....”

In the darkness of his sleep, Xiao Yan fuzzily felt that his whole body seemed to be submerged in a cooling liquid. Stream after stream of gentle and mild energy burrowed into his body through countless pores and quietly flowed around within his body. The energy was gradually regaining his Qi Paths since his overuse of Dou Qi had resulted in somewhat damaged Qi Paths.

After the Qi Paths and flesh had been repaired to their original state, the gentle energy flowing in the body followed the Qi Paths, twisting and turning until finally pouring into the Dou Qi Vortex located in the lower abdomen.

With the sudden new intake of energy, the originally sluggishly turning Qi Vortex suddenly spun faster as if it had been turbo charged.

Following the acceleration of the Qi Vortex, the energy flowing in the Qi

Paths quickly swarmed towards the Qi Vortex

Even after the Qi Vortex had sucked dry all of the energy in the Qi Paths, it did not stop its ravenous sucking. After rapidly revolving a few rounds, an even fiercer attraction force emitted from within the vortex.

Immediately, more and more of the gentle energy in the strange liquid surrounding Xiao Yan's body was sucked into his body before being refined in the Qi Paths and poured into the gradually expanding Qi Vortex.

This endless process of absorption continued in the unconscious Xiao Yan for an unknown amount of time, he could only vaguely guess how long it lasted. The energy from the outside became weaker and weaker, until finally it completely faded away. Only then did he finally breakthrough the darkness of his consciousness and hazily open his eyes.

What was first reflected in his eyes was a spacious cave; on the four walls of the cave, some Moonlight Stones were suspended for lighting. Slightly moving his numb body, he heard the 'hua hua' sounds of water. Tilting his head downwards to take a look, he found that his body was in a small pit made of stone. This pit had been filled with clear water, yet from the slight green tinge that lingered in the water, it was likely that this water was not from a natural water source.

Swaying his palm in the water for a while, Xiao Yan realized that there was a strong and pure energy in the light green liquid.

He cupped some in his hand and brought it under his nose to take a whiff. Somewhat stunned, he softly said, "It's medicine water?"

"It is indeed medicine water, it cost me at least three or four days to create such a small pool of Soul Restoring Liquid for you." An aged voice sounded from just outside the cave as Yao Lao's illusionary figure drifted in like a ghost.

Coming to the side of the small stone pit, as Yao Lao inspected the current Xiao Yan. With a satisfied look appeared in his eyes, he said, "I had originally thought that you would take half a month of rest to recover. However, in just a mere five days, you have not only recovered completely but also managed to find a silver lining in this misfortune by touching the

gate to a seven star Dou Zhe. Looking at your current state, perhaps with another few days of training, you should enter into the level of a seven star Dou Zhe.”

“I’ve been out for five days?” Yao Lao words caused Xiao Yan’s eyes to open in shock as he exclaimed.

“Yeah.” Yao Lao nodded as he glanced at Xiao Yan before frowning and reprimanding his student, “You little brat, you could have obviously used Ziyun Wings immediately to escape, yet you insisted on showing off by forcefully using the Di Rank Dou Technique, if it were not for my help in activating the Ziyun Wings, I’m afraid you would not even have had the strength to escape!”

With an awkward smile, Xiao Yan helplessly let out a bitter laugh before saying, “Alright, I admit that I really wanted to try out the Di Rank Dou Technique to see if it could defeat a Dou Shi, that was why I took the risk and stayed.”

“You call the thing you used a Di Rank Dou Technique? Don’t shame the skill any further.” Yao Lao’s lips curled as he said while rolling his eyes at Xiao Yan.

With an embarrassed smile, Xiao Yan did not dare to dispute any further. Turning his gaze to sweep across the cave, he asked, “Currently, we should be at the inner area of the Magic Beast Mountain Range right?”

“Yea, this is the place I meticulously picked, All of the high ranked Magic Beasts nearby have already been cleaned up by me. You can walk up to a hundred meters from this place but you still need to be careful of Magic Beasts which might randomly enter. In this place, any Magic Beast could easily kill you with a single swipe.” Yao Lao reminded as he nodded his head.

Helplessly nodding his head in understanding, Xiao Yan slowly stood up from the small stone pit before retrieving the clothes to one side and putting them on in a flurry.

“How long will we be staying here?” Xiao Yan jumped down from the top of the pit, the abundant amount of Dou Qi in his body caused him to be

somewhat energetic. Vigorously punching the air, he turned his head to inquire.

“Until you become a Dou Shi.” Yao Lao replied as he returned Xiao Yan’s storage ring.

“During this period of time, you can be at ease as you train here, anything to do with revenge can wait till after you become a Dou Shi. Other than that, you cannot fall behind on alchemy, there are plenty of medicine ingredients in the inner area of the Magic Beast Mountain range. Find whatever you need for practice, else you will have to rely on me to help you refine pills every time.” Yao Lao instructed as he watched Xiao Yan retrieve the mysterious heavy ruler and place it on his back.

With a grin, Xiao Yan nodded and carrying the mysterious heavy ruler, he slowly walked out of the cave.

After reaching this safe haven and distancing himself from the annoying chasing and killing, Xiao Yan did not suffer from any disturbances. As he quietly trained, the Dou Qi in his body grew mellow and rich, like the fermentation of good wine. On the third day after he regained consciousness, while doing meditative training, Xiao Yan had a breakthrough and advanced to a seven star Dou Zhe. There was not a single bit of resistance in the breakthrough this time, rather it went as smoothly as how water flows through a river. Xiao Yan was also very happy at this increase in his strength.

After making the breakthrough to a seven star Dou Zhe, Xiao Yan’s training slowed down; it was extremely hard to make a breakthrough for the last three stars of every level. Thus for the last two stars, Xiao Yan could only wait for them to come naturally. If he tried to rush it, there may be some side effects.

Although the time spent on Dou Qi training had decreased a lot, Xiao Yan’s schedule for Dou Technique practice became tighter and tighter. About over a hundred meters from the cave was another waterfall that Yao Lao meticulously found. Here, Xiao Yan who had already become a seven star Dou Zhe, trained for over ten days before he finally achieved

the minimum foundation requested by Yao Lao for him to use the Di Rank Dou Technique.

From under the waterfall, Xiao Yan swam to the shore and wiped the water off of his body. Having completed the task, he let out a long sigh; his once heavy shoulders had become much lighter. It was only now that Xiao Yan was assured that when he used the Di Rank Dou Technique, he would not end up in such an embarrassing and weak situation like before.

Seated on a rock beside the waterfall, Xiao Yan leisurely basked in the rays of the sun. Retrieving the medicine cauldron he had bought in Wu Tan City from the Storage Ring, he also retrieved a huge pile of different medicine ingredients, covering the surface of the rock.

Gazing upon the medicine cauldron before him, Xiao Yan rubbed his hands together. His left hand lightly stuck onto the fire mouth as he willed a strand of Dou Qi from the Qi Vortex to flow to his palm before entering the fire mouth with a muffled 'pu' sound. The Dou Qi went through the bizarre transformation of the medicine cauldron's fire mouth and transformed into a somewhat deep yellow flame,

As he eyed the flame which had become a deeper shade than before, Xiao Yan smiled, satisfied. Waiting till the flame had warmed the medicine cauldron before his right hand started the selection process from the various medicinal ingredients.

Xiao Yan did not plan to use Yao Lao's recipe for the alchemy this time. It is known that every Alchemist needed to research and create his own recipes; an Alchemist without his own personal recipes would only find it awkward when he or she came into contact with other peers. Thus every Alchemist would use all of his heart to produce personal recipes from countless medicinal ingredients. Of course, it was better for the recipe to be of high grade.

Xiao yan's palm moved over the hundred different kinds of medicinal herbs in front of him and with a swift motion, he grabbed a red fruit which emitted a strange smell.

Snake Passion Fruit, normally found growing in dark places that high

grade Magic Snakes used for copulation, an excessive snake like character. This fruit had an aphrodisiac effect.

After picking the Snake Passion Fruit, Xiao Yan once again grabbed seven or eight kinds of medicinal ingredients in succession. All of these medicinal ingredients were all without exception ingredients that possessed a aphrodisiac-like effect.

Seeing Xiao Yan practice alchemy, Yao Lao also sneakily floated out of the ring. Yet once he saw the ingredients that Xiao Yan had picked, his aged eyebrows rose up, though soon after he remained silent as he stood behind Xiao Yan.

After selecting the medicinal ingredients, Xiao Yan threw the red colored fruit into the medicine cauldron first. Controlling the flame, the water within the fruit was quickly roasted away, immediately, the red fruit turned into a red colored fine powder.

With his complete attention on the inside of the medicine cauldron, Xiao Yan once again cast a stalk of pink colored seven leaf flower. This flower was known as Desire Flower, the fragrance that it emitted usually caused any Magic Beasts that were near it to toss and turn as they howled continuously.

After refining the Desire Flower into fine powder, Xiao Yan immediately followed up by throwing the rest of the medicine materials in. Finally, the seven or eight different colored powders came together. Finally, mixing small ball of liquid refined from the Desire Flower with the whole pile of powder, everything was completely fused to become a pink colored liquid.

After using a high temperature flame to boil out all the water from the pink liquid, a ball of pale white powder was left floating in the medicine cauldron.

Gazing at the ball of white powder, Xiao Yan broke out in a grin. With a wave of his hand, he opened the lid on the cauldron and used his palm to suck all of the powder out of the caldroun and into the jade bottle in his hand.

As Xiao Yan admired his first alchemy product, he somewhat hurriedly

used his hand to dab a bit of the powder before using his tongue to taste it.

“Phew.....heh heh, a success.” When the powder entered his mouth, Xiao Yan’s whole body felt slightly itchy and heated. Using his Dou Qi, he suppressed the itchy heat, the smiling expression on his face was filled with a rare perverseness.

“Ke.....” An aged cough from behind his back caused Xiao Yan’s face to turn beet-red, he rushed to hide the transparent bottle.

“Stop hiding it, it’s just a bottle of aphrodisiac, the first recipe of many male Alchemists is this kind of thing. Heh heh.....men.....” Unexpectedly, Yao Lao did not reprimand him but instead made fun of Xiao Yan.

“Eh?” Slightly stunned, Xiao Yan let out a sigh of relief. Turning his head to look at Yao Lao, he chuckled and asked, “Teacher, is it possible that you also made this kind of thing your first time?”

These words caused Yao Lao’s aged face to flush, somewhat humiliated, he waved his sleeves about, “You think that I would be like you to do this kind of improper thing?”

Gazing at Yao Lao’s flustered look, everything clicked into place in Xiao Yan’s mind; the corner of his mouth pulled upwards as he stood up. Just as he intended to organize everything, a violent energy wave and a thunderous lion’s roar suddenly exploded in the sky.

Hearing the ferocious lion’s roar, Yao Lao complexion slightly changed, his eyes turned to stare at the sky in the distance. There, was the origin of the violent energy. With the aid of his keen eyesight, Yao Lao seemed to faintly catch a glimpse of a beautiful and graceful figure of a woman.

“That was the roar of a rank six Amethyst Winged Lion, what kind of person actually dares to disturb it?”

“Rank six Magic Beast?”

Xiao Yan’s pupils slightly shrank as he swallowed, “That’s comparable to a Dou Huang level human practitioner, who dares to tug on it’s whiskers?”
[TL: Aka, enrage it.]

Chapter 131: Mysterious Woman and the Rank Six Magic Beast Amethyst Winged Lion

From the blue sky above, the violent waves of energy continued to create repeated muffled thundering noises. Even though Xiao Yan was far from where the battle took place, his ears started to feel uncomfortable.

Xiao Yan focused intently at the far skyline where green and red seemed to fill the air. The lazy white clouds were also no exception as they were dyed a shade of the two colors.

Another thunderous roar blasted into Xiao Yan's ears, causing him to swallow hard. The pressure from the energy in the sky actually caused his legs to shiver.

"Is this a fight between the strong?" Xiao Yan mumbled in his mouth. This was the first time that he had witnessed the terrifying power from a battle of this level. He felt that the him of the past was but a frog in a well. Only now did he finally understand that the records in the books that described one person handling ten thousand opponents were not simply legends.

Standing beside Xiao Yan, Yao Lao pressed his eyebrows together and watched the distant battle that occurred at the skyline and muttered to himself, "That female should be a human. Why did she run all the way to the Magic Beast Mountain Range and fight with the Amethyst Winged Lion?"

"What? Do you feel shocked?" Yao Lao suddenly asked with a smile when he tilted his head and noticed the shivering Xiao Yan.

Nodding his head with great difficulty, Xiao Yan smiled bitterly. "Only after witnessing their battle do I understand that the fights that I have been involved in were insignificant."

"Ke ke, I've already said that the Dou Qi continent is very big. There are

even a number of people stronger than a Dou Huang practitioner. You have the potential. When you finally step onto that level, you will naturally come to realize that this world is very exciting.” Yao Lao laughed.

“Although the power that used created in these battle is very scary, I will not be overtly ambitious. The journey should be taken one step at a time.” Xiao Yan smiled brilliantly.

Hearing this, Yao Lao was momentarily stunned but he quickly gave a pleased smile and nodded.

“Do you want to go over and have a look at their fight?” Lifting his chin to the far away fight, Yao Lao asked.

“They won’t discover us, will they?” Xiao Yan initial joy was quickly overshadowed by his concern as he spoke.

“Aren’t you looking down on me?” Yao Lao waved his hand, transforming his body into a flowing light and entered Xiao Yan’s body. Immediately, a dense white energy warped around Xiao Yan. “I’ll be controlling your body during this period of time.”

Once he said this sentence, the Ziyun Wings on Xiao Yan’s back automatically extended outwards. The Ziyun Wings this time around were not only over a meter long but had a purple colored light flowing on its surface, appearing both vivid and mysterious.

The dense white energy slowly encompassed the purple light of the wings, hiding the glaring bright light.

“Let’s go. Today, I’ll bring you to see what is called a truly strong person!” Yao Lao smiled faintly as he flapped the Ziyun Wings, slowly lifting Xiao Yan’s body into the air. The pair of wings flapped again, sending Xiao Yan shooting at a low altitude towards the battleground.

Seeing the blurry images of the trees retreating under him, Xiao Yan was so excited that his face appeared to be a little red. With the help of the Ziyun Wings, Yao Lao’s current speed was much faster than what it was back at Wu Tan City. The pleasure of flying at great speed gave Xiao Yan an impulse to face the sky and shout.

Xiao Yan flew at an extreme speed along the canopy of the woods and after ten minutes, finally closed in on the fight. The pressure that was transmitted from the overwhelming waves of energy caused Xiao Yan's heart to tremble despite being under the protection of Yao Lao.

Xiao Yan finally came to a stop less than a hundred meters away from the battle in the sky. Xiao Yan used the cover of the large forest and landed on top of an enormous tree. Here, Xiao Yan could clearly see the pair who were fighting in the sky.

Watching from a close distance, Xiao Yan once again experienced the fierceness and toughness of a Dou Huang. In the blue sky above, the green and red color enveloped almost half of the entire skyline, giving birth to a spectacular picture.

Xiao Yan's gaze first swept over the enormous Magic Beast in the sky. The Magic Beast had a gigantic body that was seven or eight meters long. The surface of its body was covered by a layer of purple colored crystal, which reflected the sunlight and shone it in all directions.

The Magic Beast's head was an ominous looking lion's head with a pair of bloody red beast eyes that carried a strange glint of purplish light and a large mouth covered with fangs. At the top of the beast head was a fiery red helix shaped horn with a cluster of purple colored flame clustered around it. A pair of purple colored wings grew from the back of the lion's body. When it flapped, numerous small clusters of flame were swept in all directions, much like a flamethrower. Its four rough and strong claws were similarly covered with a layer of purple crystal. Each time they stepped down, they would cause the empty air to shake, displaying a great strength that was difficult to imagine.

The huge Magic Beast stood in the air while a shapeless pressure descended from the sky, causing Xiao Yan's spirit to tremble.

"Is this the legendary Amethyst Winged Lion?"

Xiao Yan mumbled softly as he obscurely watched the Magic Beast which displayed both beauty and destruction.

Xiao Yan shook his head due to the amazement he felt for the Amethyst

Winged Lion. He then shifted his gaze onto the one who had challenged the Amethyst Winged Lion.

“A female?” When Xiao Yan’s gaze first swept across the well proportioned and exquisite body, he was startled. He did not expect that the strong person who dared fight with the Amethyst Winged Lion was actually a woman.

The lady in the sky was wearing a tight dress that covered her exquisite frame while wielding a strange looking longsword that was emitting a green colored light. Her black hair was held in place by a noble looking phoenix accessory. The beautiful and moving face of hers was very calm, revealing not the slightest change even when faced with a Magic Beast that was extremely well known in the Dou Qi continent.

On the mysterious woman’s back was a pair of green colored wings that appeared slightly illusionary. Those were likely formed from the amalgamation of her Dou Qi. The transformation of Dou Qi into wings was a symbol of those who were Dou Wang or stronger.

The mysterious woman lightly stood in the sky. Her calm and beautiful face carried a gracefulness and nobility that the simple dress she wore could not hide.

“Human woman, why did you come and disturb my rest?” The huge Amethyst Winged Lion in the sky suddenly roared using the human’s language.

Upon hearing that the Magic Beast spoke the human language, Xiao Yan was initially shocked but quickly realized something. After reaching this rank, the Magic Beasts had long achieved consciousness and possessed an intelligence that would not lose to a human.

“I wish to borrow your highness’ Purple Spirit Crystal.” The mysterious woman parted her red lips as her beautiful eyes stared at the Amethyst Winged Lion. Her faint voice was clear and moving.

“Purple Spirit Crystal? I can only drop a small piece every twenty years. Who are you to ask for it?” The Amethyst Winged Lion mockingly said.

“I can exchange for it with something that you need.” The mysterious woman seemed also slightly afraid of this rank six Magic Beast that was well known for its fierceness. Thus she was not forceful when she spoke.

“Exchange? Ha, alright. It so happens that I am now in the body transformation stage. If you can get me a ‘Body Transformation Pill’, I will give you a Purple Spirit Crystal. What do you say?” The Amethyst Winged Lion howled when it heard the woman’s suggestion.

“To actually ask for so much. The ‘Body Transformation Pill’ is a rare pill that requires a tier seven alchemist to successfully refine. Using it to exchange for a Purple Spirit Crystal? Unless that woman is an idiot.” Hearing the demand of the Amethyst Winged Lion, Yao Lao laughed with his old voice.

Xiao Yan blinked his eyes. Having heard of this pill for the first time, he curiously asked, “From its name, it seems like this ‘Body Transformation Pill’ is used to help the Magic Beast transform its body, right? Why? Is it very valuable?”

“With the ‘Body Transformation Pill’, a Magic Beast would be able to completely transform into the human shape. Once they achieved this transformation, their training speed would become comparable with that of a human. Do you think that this thing isn’t valuable?”

“Uh...” Xiao Yan nodded his head speechlessly. The lifespan of a Magic Beast was much longer than a human’s. Although there were some strange pills that could extend one’s lifespan but when compared with a Magic Beast, especially those of higher ranks, the lifespan of a human was really short. Just imagining a high ranked Magic Beast that had successfully transformed and trained continuously for a hundred or eighty years would be a creepy thought.

As Yao Lao had expected, the mysterious woman frowned and shook her head upon hearing the Amethyst Winged Lion’s demand. With a soft voice, she said, “I’m sorry, There are only a few people in the Jia Ma Empire who possess something like a ‘Body Transformation Pill’. But if you are willing, I can use three rank five Monster Cores and a High Xuan

Qi Method and Dou Technique that you can train with to exchange with you.”

“Not interested. If you cannot produce the ‘Body Transformation Pill’ then you should leave the Magic Beast Mountain Range.” The Amethyst Winged Lion shook its large head, not hesitating to reject the mysterious woman’s terms.

Letting out a soft sigh, the mysterious woman slowly lifted the strange looking longsword in her hand and said helplessly, “If it is like this, then I’ll have to use force.”

“Ha ha! Humans are always like this.” Seeing the mysterious woman’s action, the Amethyst Winged Lion immediately let loose a thundering laugh. A while later, the laughter finally receded and its voice became cold once more, “I know that you are also a Dou Huang but if we were to really fight, it would be a real question of whether you are able to walk out of the Magic Beast Mountain Range alive.”

“You don’t need to be concerned about that.” The mysterious woman responded indifferently as she lifted her hand gently. As she did so, a small wisp of a green colored tornado suddenly appeared in the air. Initially, the tornado was only two meters wide but a moment later, the tornado began to expand and turned into a huge tornado that was over a hundred feet wide.

In the space between the sky and the ground, the green tornado whizzed and whirled, constantly uprooting the huge trees on the ground. The ferocious wind quickly grinded the trees down, filling the air with sawdust.

“Hmm! The Magic Beast Mountain Range is not the territory of you humans. You do not have the right to behave so atrociously!” The Amethyst Winged Lion eyed the growing enormous tornado and growled. From its large mouth, a deep roar echoed throughout the mountain range.

Following the lion’s roar, the amethyst on its body shone brightly. In the blink of an eye, a savage purple flame violently surged forth from its body. The purple flame gradually spiraled upwards, finally forming an enormous pillar of purple that shot towards the sky. The intense heat caused Xiao

Yan, who was a kilometer away, to perspire unceasingly.

“What a frightening condition.” Xiao Yan spoke dryly as he wiped off the perspiration on his forehead and watched the distant huge tornado and fire pillar with awe.

“Teacher, who do you think will win?” After wiping his perspiration once more, Xiao Yan asked in a soft voice.

“At this stage, it is usually difficult to kill off the opponent in one blow unless one possesses an extremely strong trump card. As for who will win or lose, I cannot say for certain. Everything will be known once the fight is over.” Yao Lao replied with a smile.

Xiao Yan shook his head helplessly. Suddenly, he raised his head, watched the tense atmosphere, and whispered, “The fight is starting....”

Chapter 132: A Dou Huang Level Fight

During the time when the mysterious woman waved her hand, the enormous green tornado in the sky rushed towards the Amethyst Winged Lion in an unrestrained manner, carrying a wind that howled frantically.

In the areas where the tornado passed, the forest on the ground was uprooted, turning the place into a flat yellow ground while many Magic Beasts fled everywhere

With Yao Lao's protection, the lucky Xiao Yan was not blown away by the wind. His hands tightly grabbed the tree branch as he stared at the forest that had turned into a mess. Involuntarily, he swallowed his saliva.

"Hmph!" Watching the spiraling tornado approaching, the Amethyst Winged Lion's large mouth let out a loud snort. It flapped its wings and the twenty to thirty foot pillar of purple flame pushed outwards and smashed towards the tornado.

The two enormous objects collided in the sky. The moment they did, there was a dead silence in the air.

"Bang!" A roar of thunder abruptly blasted in the sunny sky.

The tornado and the fire pillar violently collided, unleashing an uncontrolled and frightening energy. At the point of contact, ripples seemed to appear in the air.

"Bang!" A few minutes after the tornado and the fire pillar collided, they seemed to have exhausted their strength and died down with an explosive blast that echoed throughout the mountain range.

When the tornado and the fire pillar disappeared, the mysterious woman who was quietly standing in midair finally started to move. The green wings on her back flapped and like lightning, her body instantly passed through the area where the energy was still in a turmoil and appeared behind the Amethyst Winged Lion. The strange longsword in her hand stabbed forward. A spinning wind blade was formed at the sword's tip and spiraled at an incredible speed much like a green colored ball with

numerous blades growing from it.

“Clank clank...” The longsword carrying the wind blades slashed at the body of the Amethyst Winged Lion, creating a clear sound in midair. However, the flashing slashes of the longsword only left a number of white scars. These white scars were present for a short moment before they disappeared.

Ignoring the ordinary attack from its opponent, the Amethyst Winged Lion swung its head, shooting a strong large purple flame about half a meter in size from the red helix shaped horn on its head.

The blazing purple flame caused the mysterious woman to knit her eyebrows together as her empty hand formed a strange looking seal in front of her. “Wind Pushing Force!”

As her clear soft voice died off, a ferocious swirl of green colored wind was immediately summoned in front of her, blocking the purple colored fireball.

Seeing that the attack by the purple colored flame was ineffective, the purple glint in the Amethyst Winged Lion eyes grew brighter. Its huge claw smashed at the mysterious woman while carrying a beautiful purple light. Wherever the claw passed, it tore apart the air pushing against it, emitting a sharp screech in midair.

Eyeing the physical attack by the Amethyst Winged Lion, the mysterious woman’s face became more serious. A wind shield about two to three meters long suddenly congregated in front of her.

“Crack...” The enormous claw crushed the the green colored wind shield. Under the magnificent purple colored light, a clear cracking noise sounded, immediately splitting the wind shield into numerous pieces that scattered with the wind. The physical attack of the Amethyst Winged Lion possessed a strength that could not be underestimated.

The Amethyst Winged Lion let out a low roar as its attack broke through the opponent’s defence. It twisted its large body, unleashing another ferocious attack with a speed that did not match its enormous body size.

Faced with the Amethyst Winged Lion's relentless attack, the mysterious woman could only choose to dodge. After all, it was foolish to attempt to take on the abnormal strength of the former.

In the sky, the Amethyst Winged Lion's body continued to make quick motions and that mysterious woman repeatedly retreated. It appeared that she had fallen into a disadvantageous state but thankfully, she did not receive any injuries from the beast.

Xiao Yan secretly let out a whistle as he lifted his head to face the beautiful battle, admiring its sound effects and the unceasing ripples in the air. Just the strength from the aftermath of their battle was possible to destroy a Dou Shi or even a Da Dou Shi.

"The Amethyst Winged Lion has a very strong defense and endurance while the woman seems to know numerous Xuan Wind type Dou Techniques. Both of them are also Dou Huangs, with similar strengths. If they continue to fight like this without revealing their trump cards, it is not possible to determine a winner." Yao Lao carelessly said.

"It shouldn't end like this. The Amethyst Winged Lion is of the fire affinity. His combat power would be strengthened under the hot sun while it would be weakened in the night. It will likely try to quickly end the battle before sunset." Xiao Yan spoke as he lifted his head and watched the pursuit going on in the sky.

"Ha, you seem to have made a detailed observation. In such a short period of time you actually discovered that the Amethyst Winged Lion relies on the hot sun." Hearing Xiao Yan's analysis, Yao Lao could not help but smile somewhat strangely.

"From what I see, the amethyst on its body seems to be absorbing the sun's energy. The purple colored flame in its body should also be from those amethysts." Xiao Yan blinked and suddenly asked, "Teacher, Can the purple colored flame of the Amethyst Winged Lion be refined by an alchemist into a flame seed and stored within the body?"

"Uh... you have a great imagination." After being stunned by the ridiculous thinking Xiao Yan had, Yao Lao shook his head and explained,

“It is very difficult for an alchemist to refine this kind of flame. They are born from within a Magic Beast so they are harder to tame as compared to a Heavenly Flame. Moreover, this kind of flame cannot be compared to a Heavenly Flame. It is only just slightly stronger than ordinary Dou Qi flame so no one would bother to exhaust a large amount of effort to tame it.”

Xiao Yan nodded briefly and once again became silent. He lifted his head and continued watching the rare high level fight.

Due to the huge stir created by the fight between beast and human, many Magic Beasts were disturbed from their sleep. Thus, many different and unique Magic Beasts began appearing on the originally empty mountain range.

In order to survive in the inner region of the Magic Beast Mountain Range, the strength of these Magic Beasts were basically at least rank three. At this rank, the Magic Beast has gained an initial consciousness and were entirely different from those in the outer regions who basically only had instinct.

In the world of the Magic Beasts, there was an extremely strict hierarchy. Among those Magic Beasts which had just appeared, the lower ranks consciously fled with their tails behind their backs to the outer regions of the battle field. The Magic Beasts that had the qualification to pause nearby and observe the fight were extremely few in number. Xiao Yan had secretly counted them; there were three large Magic Beasts which stood upright on three of the mountain peaks appearing to look down upon the rest. Their gazes were entirely focused on the battle occurring high up in the air. As for these three Magic Beast's rank, Yao Lao had informed him that they were rank five, similar to a Dou Wang practitioner amongst the humans.

Staring at the legendary and well known ferocious beasts, Xiao Yan could not help but moan in his heart. This was only the eastern regions of the Magic Beast Mountain Range, yet a rank six Magic Beast, three rank five Magic Beasts, and several other Magic Beasts of various ranks had already appeared. The power of this frightening group could easily destroy

an entire army!

While many Magic Beasts appeared, not one of them showed any signs of stepping forward to help the Amethyst Winged Lion. They clearly understood that it would be an insult to the king of the eastern mountain region if they interfered.

The fight in the sky continued from noon all the way until the sun was about to set.

Seeing the large sun beginning to disappear into the horizon, the Amethyst Winged Lion which had been attacking tirelessly suddenly stopped. Its red eyes with a purple glint carried an intolerant and majestic appearance as it stared intently at the noble looking lady.

“Human female, you have eroded much of my limited patience!” The low roar of the Amethyst Winged Lion shook the woods in the mountains.

“As long as your highness is willing to hand the Purple Spirit Crystal over to me, I promise that I will not disturb you again.” Despite being hunted for an entire afternoon, the mysterious woman still appeared both graceful and noble. A fierce swirl of wind appeared and disappeared around her when she spoke.

“Since you are so ungrateful, don’t blame me!” A lion’s roar carrying a faint trace of anger escaped from the Amethyst Winged Lion’s large mouth. The light on its body grew increasingly intense until the bright light finally began to eclipse that of the setting sun.

“It is showing its true strength...” Witnessing the power on the body of the Amethyst Winged Lion, anticipation welled up in Xiao Yan as he whispered.

Seeing the intense purple light on the Amethyst Winged Lion in the air, the surrounding Magic Beasts which were observing the fight suddenly panicked and began to swiftly move back. Even the three gigantic rank five Magic Beasts were no exception.

The strange state of the Amethyst Winged Lion was also something the mysterious woman was cautious of. Her face gradually grew even more

serious as she felt the unnatural flow of the energy around her. A violent gale began to blow within an area that was dozens of feet wide.

The purple colored light began to envelop the entire place. After a moment of preparation, the light abruptly shrank and in just the blink of an eye, the wide hovering light had shrunk into a deep purple light pillar that was half a foot wide.

“It’s a seal?” Feeling the energy from the purple colored pillar, Yao Lao could not help but whisper in an astonished voice.

“A seal?” Xiao Yan quickly asked when he heard the term.

“Some of the strange high ranked Magic Beasts have an inborn knowledge of how to use seals. It is really unexpected that this Amethyst Winged Lion knows how to use it. That woman is in for some deep trouble.”

As Yao Lao’s explanation receded, the dark purple light pillar shot out like lightning. Its speed was exceedingly frightening and leaped twice before appearing a short distance away from the mysterious woman.

“Amethyst Seal!” As the purple light flickered, the Amethyst Winged Lion’s roar reverberated throughout the mountain range.

At the instant when the dark purple light pillar appeared, the mysterious woman’s face changed. The powerful Dou Technique was quickly released before it could finish.

“Splitting Wind Dance!”

Following the call of the mysterious woman, the space in front of her began to fluctuate. Numerous huge dark green wind blades that were over a hundred feet in size appeared in the air. Then they linked together, forming something that appeared like a cylinder of blades that spiraled at extreme speed as it moved forwards.

“Bang! Bang!” The space where the purple colored light pillar and the spiraling wind blade passed through became distorted. An instant later, the two crashed against each other, releasing a frightening sound similar to two meteorites colliding.

Briefly after the purple colored light pillar and the spiraling wind blades crashed into each other, the spiraling wind visibly appeared to be weaker. In just a short moment, the spiraling wind suddenly exploded while the purple colored pillar merely dimmed slightly,

After overcoming the spiraling wind blades, the purple colored light pillar appeared to be at ease as it broke through tens of wind shields that the mysterious woman had put up. It finally shot into her body.

Right after the attack by the purple colored pillar of light succeeded, the Amethyst Winged Lion's huge body appeared in front of the mysterious woman. Its huge claw unleashed five extremely sharp purple colored spikes that viciously shot towards the latter's head.

"Wind's Peak, Killer Meteorite."

Just as the huge claw was about to penetrate the mysterious woman's body, the strange sword in her hand suddenly trembled. A thin mysterious beam of light that was about the size of a thumb instantly shot outwards.

The light beam even made the air quivered.

"Crack!" The beam of light shot towards the Amethyst Winged Lion's head, but the beast's astuteness led it to lower its head slightly, resulting in the beam of light hitting the red horn on its forehead. In an instant, the hardest part of its body was cleanly cut in half.

The sliced horn caused the Amethyst Winged Lion to feel an immense pain. It let out a violent lion's roar as its claw slashed forward with an fierce force, smashing heavily against the mysterious woman's chest.

Following a piercing metal clashing sound, the mysterious woman who received the heavy blow threw up a mouthful of blood. With a pale face, she abruptly turned around and flapped her green wings. Her body flickered mysteriously and an instant later, disappeared into the horizon.

Eyeing the frightening speed she displayed despite being injured, the Amethyst Winged Lion, which had temporarily lost his strength due to the broken horn, released a wild roar that was filled with killing intent.

Under the influence of this roar that was filled with a wild energy, the

bases of mountains in the mountain range shook unceasingly like an earthquake, Some of the peaks of the mountain were even broken off by the vibration.

“Go and search! Find that human woman!”

The Amethyst Winged Lion let out a menacing roar that was filled with killing intent as its large head faced the bottom of the mountain range and stared with its bloody red eyes. As a result, all the Magic Beasts in the mountain began to hurriedly and frantically move.

Chapter 133: Fascinating Treatment

While the Magic Beasts of the mountain were in search of the mysterious woman, Xiao Yan, who was still under Yao Lao's protection, stealthily rushed back to his hiding place without alerting any Magic Beasts.

"That was so exciting. That last attack by that woman was so strong. If the Amethyst Winged Beast had not dodged in time, its head would likely have been penetrated..." Recalling the thrilling and beautiful fight in the sky, Xiao Yan's heart started beating heavily. The scene of a fight between strong beings was not something that one could easily find.

Xiao Yan carefully returned to the area around the waterfall and packed up the Medicinal Cauldron and other things that he had left lying around. He was just about to return to the cave when his feet suddenly froze.

Xiao Yan widened his eyes and did not blink as he stared at the the river flowing under the waterfall. A simply dressed beautiful lady was floating on it. Her tightly closed eyes and pale face told people that she was quite badly injured.

"Gulp..." Xiao Yan swallowed his saliva, recognising the lady floating on the water. She was the strong Dou Huang who had battled with the Amethyst Winged Lion.

From her appearance, it appeared that she was unconscious. Xiao Yan's heart instantly hesitated. Should he rescue her? Or should he not? If he rescued her, he may end up provoking the residents of this place but if he did not, in her current state she would likely be unable to escape from the woeful fate of being shredded into pieces by the furious Amethyst Winged Lion.

During the time when Xiao Yan's heart was hesitating, a couple of roars belonging to Magic Beasts came vibrating from the distant woods.

"Ugh, you have good luck!" When he heard the Magic Beast roars, Xiao Yan clenched his teeth and hurriedly dashed into the water flow to carry the simply dressed woman, who was drenched, from the water. Xiao Yan

placed his hands on her calves and the back of her head. The warm jade like delicate and smooth feeling that he came into contact with felt wonderful.

Xiao Yan bit the tip of his tongue and suppressed the fluttering feeling inside himself. He then carried the drenched body of the mysterious beauty and dashed in the direction of the cave entrance with all his might.

The mad dash continued until he got within a fifty meter radius from the cave entrance; only then did he heave a sigh of relief. Yao Lao had scattered a type of medicinal powder around this region. The medicinal powder was a great irritation to Magic Beasts, so there were seldom any who would break into this place. Hence, this could be considered a safe place.

After carrying the woman and hurrying to cave, Xiao Yan gently placed her onto the stone platform. He sat down beside her and took a few deep breaths.

During his rest, Xiao Yan finally found the time to observe the beautiful Dou Huang from a close distance. He carefully sized her up. An amazement gradually rose in his heart as he did so. Saying that the beauty appeared like a picture to describe her was not an exaggeration. What truly caused Xiao Yan to feel amazed was the gracefulness and nobility in her.

Xiao Yan's gaze swept across her face, which appeared so fragile that a single breath could break it. He slowly shifted his eyes downwards and frowned slightly. On the chest area below her neck, five terrifying claw scars were oozing fresh blood, dying her clothes a bloody red. In her unconscious state, her eyebrows were slightly pressed together as a pained expression faintly appeared on her face. While her current manner did not match her demeanor, it was very lovely.

"She needs treatment."

Rubbing his hands together, Xiao Yan retrieved over ten jade bottles from his storage ring. He hesitated briefly before reaching out both of his hands to pull open the woman's dress. However, when his hand was about

to make contact with her body, the mysterious woman's tightly closed eyes were abruptly opened. Those beautiful eyes carried a coldness and annoyance from her embarrassment as they stared intently at Xiao Yan.

"Uh... are you awake?" The woman's sudden act of opening her eyes caused a startled Xiao Yan to jump. He quickly took a few steps back and lifted the small jade bottle in his hand as he explained, "I was only intending to treat your wounds. I mean no harm. Of course...since you were unconscious, I was planning to apply the medicine for you but now that you are awake, you can do it yourself."

As Xiao Yan spoke, he carefully placed the jade bottle beside her and once again took a few steps back. After witnessing this woman's strength, Xiao Yan was a little afraid that she would suddenly turn mad and randomly kill him with a single slap. He'd be suffering an unjust death then.

When she saw Xiao Yan step back, the mysterious woman finally let out a sigh of relief. The eyes she used to look at Xiao Yan were a little less cold. However, when she was about to apply the medicine herself, she realized that her entire body was in a numb state.

After a brief struggle, the mysterious woman slowly closed her eyes. A moment later, she opened her eyes and grinded her teeth as she said, "That damn beast. I'm under his seal."

Xiao Yan squatted in a corner of the cave and watched that paralyzed mysterious woman with an innocent face. However, he did not show any intentions of stepping forward and helping her.

After struggling for a little longer, the mysterious woman could only helplessly cease her futile struggle. She tilted her head and her beautiful eyes glanced at Xiao Yan who was squatting at a corner and drawing circles on the ground. She weighed him carefully and felt that this delicate and handsome young man meant no harm. Finally she whispered, "Help me apply the medicine."

Her voice was sweet and pleasant to the ear but within it had a nobleness that could not be hidden, a possible result of her status.

“Me?” Xiao Yan lifted his head and stared at the mysterious woman. He blinked his eyes and muttered softly, “I can help you but we must agree that after this, you will not do anything stupid like trying to dig out my eyes because I saw your body.”

Hearing Xiao Yan’s words, the woman felt neither able to cry nor smile. She shook her head as she suddenly thought of how long it had been since someone dared to say something like this in front of her.

“I’m not so unscrupulous. As long as you handle your hands and mouth properly, I will not repay your help by hurting you.” The woman blandly said in a more relaxed voice.

With her assurance, Xiao Yan finally walked towards her slowly. His eyes once again swept across that beautiful face. Letting out a dry cough, he extended his hand and gently pulled the chest portion of her dress slightly apart.

After pulling apart the plain white dress, Xiao Yan found a pale blue metal inner vest under it. From the wave like flowing light, it was obvious that this was no ordinary item. On the vest were five deep claw marks with faint treads of blood flowing from them.

“What a tough inner vest. If she did not have this to protect her body, that attack by the Amethyst Winged Lion would likely have torn her upper body apart.” Xiao Yan sighed inwardly in amazement as he glanced at the pale blue colored inner vest.

“Cough... that, the wound is under the inner vest... in order to apply the medicine to stop the blood... it seems I need to take the vest... off.” After eyeing the pale blue vest that was wrapped around the lovable body of the woman, Xiao Yan embarrassingly and bitterly told the slightly red faced woman.

When she heard Xiao Yan’s words, the woman obviously trembled. She took in a deep breath and slowly closed her eyes. Her long eyelashes slightly quivered but her voice was fairly calm, “Just remove it. Thanks.”

Seeing how she was so decisive, Xiao Yan began to feel a little uneasy. He shook his head helplessly as he lifted the woman from the stone bed

and helped her sit up with her back facing him.

Watching the enchanting outlines of her curves from behind, Xiao Yan's hand quivered slightly as he slowly stripped her of her upper garment. As he was removing her clothes, Xiao Yan's finger would occasionally touch the skin of the woman. When this happened, he would feel her body suddenly tighten. The woman may be a legendary strong Dou Huang but when it came to man and woman matters, it looked like she was not as indifferent to it as she had claimed. After Xiao Yan slowly pulled her clothes down to her narrow waist, he vaguely saw the metal buttons on the inner vest and gently undid them one by one.

After undoing the last button, Xiao Yan carefully pulled the vest from the woman's body. Despite his carefulness, however, the woman still took in a couple of cold breaths when the metal rubbed against the wound.

Once the inner vest was removed, the woman's upper body was almost nakedly displayed in front of Xiao Yan. Of course, this was only her back. As for the front... Xiao Yan did not have the courage to look.

Exposing her naked upper body to a man she did not know caused the snow white skinned female with the strength of a Dou Huang to be gradually flooded by a pink layer. Her lovely body repeatedly shivered gently.

"Manage your hands and eyes properly!" At this time, the woman once again issued a warning.

Xiao Yan bitterly smiled as he retrieved a large black robe from the storage ring and covered the woman's body with it. Only after this did he once again slowly turned her around and lay her on the stone bed.

After turning around, Xiao Yan noticed that her face was flooded with a mesmerising embarrassing red. Her eyes, however, did not appear too cold when she looked at him. Obviously, Xiao Yan's act of covering her to reduce her embarrassment had won him a favorable impression.

"I am going to wash the wound." Xiao Yan reminded as he slowly pulled down the black robe. When the wound was completely exposed, he hurriedly stopped. At this height, he could already see a small portion of a

snow white peak and an enthralling deep cleavage that would cause men to go mad for...

Xiao Yan retrieved some clean cloth from the storage ring and poured some pale green liquid on it. After which, he slowly swabbed the bloodstain around the wound.

The mysterious woman's eyebrows continued to quiver slightly as Xiao Yan swabbed gently. The noble looking phoenix hairpin on her head fell slightly, giving her appearance a lazier and less graceful feel to it.

As the woman's beautiful eyes looked at the young man who was bending his head and seriously washing the wound, gratefulness appeared in her gaze.

After washing the wound thoroughly, Xiao Yan poured some white colored powder from a jade bottle on it. The effect from the powder caused the woman to knit her eyebrows together as a painful low moan sounded.

"Relax, it will be over soon." With a smile, Xiao Yan spread the powder evenly on the wound. He then retrieved a cloth to stop the bleeding from his storage ring and carefully wrapped it around her wound.

Xiao Yan's gaze did not wander when he was bandaging her wound but he still ended up seeing thing that he should not have. It was fortunate that he managed to conceal what he saw quite well. Otherwise, the mysterious woman would likely have turned hostile.

"Alright. The wound has been dealt with. What remains is your internal injuries which you will have to rely on yourself to heal. The seal is also something that you will have to undo by yourself." Xiao Yan patted his hands, took a step back and said with a smile.

"Thank you." The woman who was quietly lying on the stone bed suddenly threw Xiao Yan a perfect smile. The smile could even be called peerless....

Chapter 134: Cohabitation in the Cave

On a small mountain peak, Xiao Yan laid on his belly as his gaze continuously swept across the surroundings. Because of the Amethyst Winged Lion, the Magic Beasts in the Magic Beast Mountain range were much more agitated than usual. Luckily the medicine powders made by Yao Lao were very effective; although Magic Beast would occasionally appear, after they smelled the irritating smell, they all hurriedly left the area. Thus, during these two days, Xiao Yan and Yao Lao were never discovered

“Hey, with that woman by your side, you will always have trouble. Do you plan to continue this way?” Yao Lao floated out of the ring as he smiled and said.

“Heh heh, that is a Dou Huang level practitioner, if there’s a chance to make her owe me a favor, it can be counted as a long-term investment. What is this bit of danger compared to that?” Xiao Yan’s palm slapped away the branches blocking his route as he chuckled.

“More like you’re taking advantage of her weakest moment to.....’ah ah’. This way, you would have a Dou Huang bodyguard, allowing you to do whatever you want in the Jia Ma Empire.” Yao Lao disrespectfully let out a suggestive laugh as he teased.

Rolling his eyes, Xiao Yan muttered, “I’d love to but if I did that, I’ll be the first one to be killed when she recovers.”

“Alright, our watch has ended, let’s return.” Once again surveying the now peaceful surroundings, Xiao Yan waved his hand, not bothering to argue with Yao Lao over this pointless topic. He leaped out from the pile of rocks before jumping down the small mountain peak, full of vigor.

Returning Yao Lao into the ring, Xiao Yan jogged and after a few minutes, he returned to the cool cave.

After entering the cave, he saw that the mysterious woman who was originally lying on the stone bed was now resting her cheek on her palms as she sat idly on a slab of rock. As she saw Xiao Yan return, she could not

help but faintly smile and say, "You've returned."

Xiao Yan smiled as he nodded in reply, carrying the mysterious heavy ruler. He walked closer and took out a few fat fish he had caught under the waterfall from the Storage Ring. He seated himself on the ground, lit a fire and casually asked "Are you better now?"

The mysterious woman slowly stood up, bringing waves of faint fragrance as she arrived at Xiao Yan's side. Slightly knitting her black brows, she lightly sighed, "Flesh wounds are not a big problem but the Seal Technique will need at least a few days to undo."

"Hide here for that period of time then, they should not be able to find this place." Skewering the fish on tree sticks, Xiao Yan placed them on a rack over the flame and then turned his head to gaze upon the mysterious woman beside him.

Because the silk dress worn by the woman was already in tatters, she was currently wearing Xiao Yan's black gown. When others wore it, the black looked somewhat heavy on them, yet, on her body, the fine curves on her exquisite figure added a mysterious charm to it. As she moved with lotus steps, a section of her jade, snow white calves were faintly discernable, a rather enchanting sight.

Gracefully seating herself, the beautiful eyes of the mysterious woman stared at Xiao Yan as he continuously sprinkled seasoning on the fish, smiling while she said, "You have guts. To dare to enter the inner area of the Magic Beast Mountain Range with the strength of a Dou Zhe."

"No choice, I was chased inside." Xiao Yan smiled, turning back his head to ask, "Right, what's your name?"

"Yun Zhi." The mysterious woman replied with a smile on her face and a twinkle in her eyes.

"Yao Yan." From the jade bottle, Xiao Yan sprinkled some meticulously matched up seasoning as he casually answered. Yun Zhi? He had never heard news of the Jia Ma Empire having a Dou Huang of that name. Thinking about it, it was likely that she was hiding her true identity.

The woman who called herself Yun Zhi did not bother check the validity of Xiao Yan words. Although her power was now sealed, a youngster who only had the strength of a Dou Zhe was clearly of no danger to her.

This brief conversation slowly ended on that note. Having lost their topic, the two sunk into a silent atmosphere until Xiao Yan offered the barbeque fish in his hand to Yun Zhi while she lightly nodded her head gratefully.

Tearing off a small piece of fish meat, Yun Zhi's red lips slightly wiggled. The graceful posture in which she slowly ate caused Xiao Yan to feel inferior at his unmannered style of eating.

"You are an Alchemist?" Yun Zhi's gaze swept over the small jade bottles to Xiao Yan's side, a sense of astonishment in her voice.

"Uh, Physician....." Xiao Yan swallowed the food in his mouth, choosing to hide the fact that he was an Alchemist. He did not feel that revealing his identity was a sensible idea.

"Oh." Slightly inclining her head in understanding. the astonishment in Yun Zhi's eyes gradually faded away. Although there wasn't much of a difference between how the two professions were named, between an Alchemist and a Physician, the difference in status was like heaven and earth.

"I have a friend who is an Alchemist. After I complete my mission here, if you're willing, I can introduce you to him in Jia Ma Empire." Yun Zhi pursed her slightly oily red lips as she said that.

At these words, Xiao Yan was slightly shocked, though soon after, he shook his head, inciting a stunned look from Yun Zhi, "Thank you, but I think I should still forget about it, I already have a teacher."

Hearing Xiao Yan unexpectedly declining her goodwill, astonishment flashed across Yun Zhi's good-looking face. Her personal introduction was actually refused? This was the first time in so many years that she had encountered such a thing. At this time, Yun Zhi only just managed to hold back the question on the tip of her tongue – Do you even know who I am introducing you to?

However this urge only flashed across her mind before dissipating. Given Yun Zhi's self-control and dignity, naturally she would not ask this kind of question on the spot. Instead, she slowly nodded her head, somewhat bewildered.

"Once your wounds are healed, do you still plan on fighting the Amethyst Winged Lion?" As he tore off the last piece of fish meat, Xiao Yan carelessly inquired with a mouth full of food.

"En, I need to obtain the Amethyst Spirit Crystal." Yun Zhi let out a light sigh as she answered.

Xiao Yan shook his head; having watched the fight between her and the Amethyst Winged Lion, he evidently thought that Yun Zhi's chances of success were not high.

"The difference between its strength and mine is not large, it's just that I did not expect that it actually knew the Sealing Technique. My previous loss was because I was unable to defend myself against that technique, in our next battle, my Extreme Wind: Meteor Kill will not necessarily lose to it." As she saw the look on Xiao Yan's face, Yun Zhi's black eyebrows slightly knitted together as she explained, faintly unsatisfied.

"That move is indeed very strong," Xiao Yan did not doubt the might of the light ray that had cut in half the hardest horns of the Amethyst Winged Lion. Yet when clashing with the Amethyst Seal, Xiao Yan did not know who would come out on top.

Having finished the barbequed fish in his hands, Xiao Yan stood up and stretched his back. He then called to Yun Zhi before seating himself cross-legged on a stone slab to one side. His hands formed into a training seal and he gradually closed his eyes.

As she gazed at the Xiao Yan who had started training, Yun Zhi also stood up and proceeded to wash her now oily jade-like hands before coming to the front of Xiao Yan. Her clever eyes sized up the Xiao Yan as he was in the midst of training. A moment later, her black eyebrows wrinkled as she softly muttered, "How is it the lowest level of Huang Qi Methods? This guy's teacher seems to be a super stingy person, can it be

that he does not know the meaning a good Qi Method for a new practitioner?”

Gently sighing as she shook her head, within Yun Zhi’s heart, though she had yet to meet Yao Lao, he had already been demoted to a teacher who ruins his students.

“After completing my task, I will help him out. Such a good sapling should not be trampled on.” Yun Zhi shook her head as she also sat herself down and closing her eyes, she gradually started to work on dissolving the Amethyst Seal in her body.

During the few days that Yun Zhi was breaking the seal, because of Xiao Yan’s excellent hospitality, the relationship between two gradually grew more familiar and perhaps because of the existence of the seal, now, whenever Yun Zhi spoke with Xiao Yan, the noble tone, that was analogous to that of a person who had live in a high position for a long time, had gradually weakened. This caused Xiao Yan to become slightly more carefree, after all what he disliked that arrogant and prideful tone.

Life in the cave together continued in tranquility for two days. However, on the third day, it was broken by the sudden arrival of a wolf’s howl.

Just after finishing lunch in the cave, Xiao Yan’s complexion suddenly changed when he heard a wolf howls from somewhere nearby outside the cave. Hastily standing up, he exchanged a glance with Yun Zhi while his brows tightly knitted together.

“How could we have been found?” Xiao Yan paced about, thinking. Everyday his body was sprayed with a medicine powder that could mask his scent; Magic Beasts could not possibly tail him to this location.

With his brows tightly knitted together, Xiao Yan suddenly cast his sight towards the apologetic look on Yun Zhi’s face. Slightly stunned, a thought crossed his mind, he forced out a smile as he asked, “You can’t be telling me that you went out today?”

Gazing at the look on Xiao Yan’s face, Yun Zhi’s good-looking face flushed scarlet with regret. With an embarrassed voice, she softly admitted, “Sorry, I.....left to take a bath today.”

Xiao Yan was somewhat speechless at these words, he let out a sigh as he tightened the mysterious heavy ruler on his back. Clenching his teeth, he instructed Yun Zhi, "You stay here, don't try anything funny, I will go out to lure the Magic Beast away."

"You.....your strength.....it would be better to let me go." Gazing at Xiao Yan as he turned around with the intention of going out, the regret in Yun Zhi's heart grew even deeper as she hastily stood up and said.

"You better stay here without moving!" Xiao Yan suddenly stopped and turned his head, shouting out in a low voice, "If you go out, you will only attract more Magic Beasts!"

At Xiao Yan's sudden outburst, Yun Zhi was slightly shocked and scared. As she foolishly looked towards the former, her brain suddenly could not process what had happened, did.....did this guy actually yell at her?

"Don't take another step out of the cave or else we will both die here!"

At this time, Xiao Yan did not have the mood to care that the woman behind him was a Dou Huang practitioner; after saying that sentence in a severe tone, he quickly rushed out of the cave.

Yun Zhi stood on the spot as she watched the back of the youngster disappear from her sight and out of the cave. Her jade-like hands absent-mindedly swayed before her as if unable to decide what was the appropriate expression for this situation. A long time later, she finally snapped out of it and stamped her feet, annoyed, "Such a tender age, yet so merciless when he's angry, to think that I had planned to help you. Since you like to act brave and show off, then go settle it yourself."

Though she said these words, Yun Zhi still took a few steps forward to gaze at the bright cave entrance but remembering Xiao Yan's warning, she could not help but stop in her step, a trace of worry on her brow.

Not long after Xiao Yan left, Yun Zhi heard the wolf howls intensify and soon, the wolf howls gradually grew further away, yet the youngster had still yet to return.

Once again waiting for a period of time, Yun Zhi finally lost her patience

and gritting her teeth, she flicked her jade-like hands as the bizarre sword shot out while icily declaring, “Amethyst Winged Lion, you bastard. If anything happens to Yao Yan, I will definitely make sure your entire mountain range is flipped over!”

As she said these words, Yun Zhi moved to rush out of the cave. However, at this time, a figure suddenly stumbled in from outside the cave.

“Yao Yan? Are you alright?” Seeing the figure, Yun Zhi’s good-looking face burst into happiness as she ran forward to inquire about his well-being.

“Miss, please don’t go out anymore. If more Magic Beasts comes, I will really die.” Covered in blood, Xiao Yan let out a bitter smile as his vision turned black and his body fell to the ground.

In the moment when he fell, Xiao Yan could vaguely feel that he seemed to have fallen into a soft and warm embrace.....

Chapter 135: The Trouble Caused by the Aphrodisiac

When Xiao Yan finally regained consciousness, he vaguely felt a gentle and warm arm on his waist. His head also seemed like it was leaning against something. Most importantly, his back was pressing tightly against two soft molds....

Gradually awaking, Xiao Yan felt his lips gradually become cool as a large mouthful of cold clear water was somewhat forcefully poured into it. Due to the poor skill of the person pouring the water, quite a bit of it ended up being poured into Xiao Yan's nose.

"Cough, cough, cough..." Xiao Yan's eyes suddenly opened as he hurriedly lowered his head and violently coughed. Eyeing Yun Zhi who was carrying a bowl of clear water behind him and looking as though she did not know what to do, the corner of Xiao Yan's mouth twitched as he laughed bitterly, "You're trying to choke me to death, aren't you?"

Hearing this, shame appeared on Yun Zhi's pretty face. This was the first time that she took care of someone; it was already quite good for her to achieve this result.

Putting down the bowl in her hands, Yun Zhi asked with a smile, "Are you alright?"

"I'm quite fine." Xiao Yan shook his head and rubbed his somewhat dizzy head as he said, "Luckily, it was only a rank two Magic Beast. If it was rank three, I'm afraid that I would not have been able to return."

"I'm sorry, I did not think that something like that would happen." Perhaps it was because her strength was temporarily sealed but in the last few days, the apologies from Yun Zhi's mouth had increased. If this phenomenon was known to those who were acquainted with her, they may be so shocked that they would end up swallowing their own tongue.

After smiling bitterly, Xiao Yan waved his hand and said, "Forget it. It was my fault for not being clear with you." At this point, Xiao Yan's

stomach suddenly growled, causing him to feel a little embarrassed.

Listening to the sound from Xiao Yan's stomach, Yun Zhi burst out laughing. Her laughter was both clear and enchanting. She reached out her hand, stopping Xiao Yan who was about to get up to prepare food, and said with a smile, "You are now a patient. I'll grill the fish today."

"You know how to grill fish?" Hearing her suggestion, Xiao Yan immediately directed his stunned gaze towards the beautiful woman who obviously had a high status.

"I have learnt a little after watching you do it for the last two to three days." With a smile, Yun Zhi turned around and walked towards the stone platform, leaving Xiao Yan with a sight of her beautiful and mesmerising back.

Watching Yun Zhi squatting on the ground and lighting a fire to grill the fish, Xiao Yan simply smiled and let out a long sigh. His hands displayed the training form and he folded his legs. A moment later, he entered the training mode.

Squatting beside the fire, Yun Zhi was sweating heavily as she flipped the fishes. Occasionally, she would turn around and watch Xiao Yan training with his eyes close and involuntarily whispered, "No one else has eaten the fish that I have grilled. You little brat, actually daring to look down on me..."

Turning the wooden handle once more, Yun Zhi swept her gaze across some jade bottles on the stone table. She knitted her eyebrows together as her hands slowly moved. A moment later, she suddenly grabbed a jade bottle that was closest to the corner. "The seasoning is this bottle, right?"

Lifting the transparent bottle, Yun Zhi studied the white powder within it. Feeling that it appeared similar to the one Xiao Yan had used before, she poured it onto the grilled fish.

A clear laughter prompted Xiao Yan to withdraw from his training state. He blinked and stared at the slightly burnt grilled fish that was placed in front of him. The corner of his mouth twitched as he lifted his head and watched Yun Zhi who was staring at him with her beautiful eyes. He

involuntarily laughed dryly, “Was this fish grilled by you?”

“This is the first time I have grilled any food. Even if it doesn’t taste good, you must also finish it. Else when I recover...” Seeing Xiao Yan’s expression, Yun Zhi raised her red lips and waved a grilled fish in her hand. In her bland voice was a threat that was understood even without being voiced.

“Big sis, I am a sick person. It’s fine if you don’t give me the best care but are you trying to poison me?” Hearing her words, Xiao Yan immediately whimpered but was ignored by Yun Zhi who simply chewed a small piece of fish meat. She instantly frowned, obviously not pleased with her cooking.

Seeing that he was ignored, Xiao Yan could only helplessly shake his head. He repeated that he was immune to poison in his heart before taking a bite.

The burnt fish caused his mouth to turn a little black but there was nothing that Xiao Yan could do. He chewed the food in his mouth and swallowed it. However, when he was halfway through with the grilled fish, his eyebrows were slowly pressed together. His body also began to twitch uncomfortable.

“That... Yao Yan, you... do you feel that something is amiss?” Yun Zhi who was standing in front of Xiao Yan suddenly asked softly. Her face had turned bright red.

Xiao Yan finally raised his head when he heard the question. His heart jumped violently. In front of him, the slender Yun Zhi’s face was filled with an attractive redness. Her normally alert eyes had now turned hazy. When Xiao Yan’s gaze moved downwards, he noticed that even Yun Zhi’s neck was covered with a layer of pink.

“Something is indeed amiss...” Xiao Yan bitterly laughed as he realised that his body had abruptly become very hot. Moreover, this heat was on a rising trend.

Taking in a deep breath, Xiao Yan eyed the panic that appeared on Yun Zhi’s face that was caused by this strange occurrence. Following that, he

lowered his head and looked at the grilled fish in their hands. After musing for a moment, a thought struck him and he asked in a dry voice, "You... did you put anything on this? Take it out and let me have a look."

Hearing Xiao Yan's words, Lao Zhi similarly became aware that the root of the problem was the grilled fish in their hands. At once, she hurriedly grabbed the small jade bottle from the stone table and handed it to Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan swiftly received the small jade bottle and studied the pale white medicinal powder within it. His eyes suddenly convulsed, especially when his finger pinched a little of it and placed it in his mouth. The expression on his face became much more colorful.

"What is it? Is there a problem with the seasoning?" Witnessing Xiao Yan's manner, Yun Zhi curiously asked.

"Who told you that this is the seasoning used to grill fish?" Xiao Yan said, feeling a desire to cry but no tears came forth.

"It looked similar to the one that you usually used..." At that moment, Yun Zhi appeared to have understood that she had messed up again. A little embarrassment inevitable found its way into her voice.

Letting out a long sigh, Xiao Yan realized that the nefarious heat rising in his lower abdomen was growing increasingly intense. Instantly, he shrunk his lower abdomen and with the help of Dou Qi, used all his might to contain the nefarious heat, preventing it from spreading.

"What is this thing?" In front of him, Yun Zhi was also beginning to feel that her body was growing increasingly hot, giving her an impulse to strip off her clothes. However, she was a person with the strength of a Dou Huang. Even with her strength being sealed, she still possessed the mental strength to forcefully suppress the heat in her as she hurriedly questioned.

"This... is something that I had unintentionally created... an aphrodisiac." Xiao Yan replied with an even redder face.

"An aphro... aphrodisiac?" Yun Zhi's face became stagnant upon hearing the answer. A blushing red immediately appeared on her face as she

stomped her feet and scolded, "Instead of learning proper things at such a young age, you actually refine such nonsense. I don't know what exactly that useless teacher of yours is teaching you!"

Faced with Yun Zhi's anger caused by her embarrassment, Xiao Yan felt wronged. "Big sis, I may have placed the thing there but I did not tell you to use it as a seasoning."

"What should we do now?" At the moment, Yun Zhi felt completely helpless, without the power she had shown when she fought with the Amethyst Winged Lion.

"Use Dou Qi to suppress it. This is something that I randomly refined so it should not be too potent. It should be alright if we suppress it." Once he gave his suggestion, Xiao Yan hurriedly closed his eyes and began circulating the Dou Qi in his body, focusing it on the rising desires in order to control it.

Watching the closed eyed Xiao Yan, Yun Zhi also began to use her Dou Qi to suppress the heat. However, when she was circulating her Dou Qi, she abruptly realised that all of her Dou Qi was already sealed by the Amethyst Winged Lion. What did she have left to suppress the desire in her?

Following the flame of desire in her heart, Yun Zhi's bright eyes became increasingly hazy. The flame of desire was driving out her sense of reasoning.

"You can slowly try to suppress it. I cannot continue to stay here. I want to leave!" A gust of wind blew into the cave, causing Yun Zhi to become a little sober. Instantly, she clenched her silver teeth and ran towards the cave entrance.

Xiao Yan, who was originally suppressing the flame of desire in him was totally shocked when he heard Yun Zhi's words. Things would become terrible if he let her leave; Magic Beasts would come from all directions and block this place.

Hurryingly opening his eyes, Xiao Yan jumped from the stone bed and frantically grabbed Yun Zhi from behind.

When Xiao Yan's hands touched the soft narrow waist of hers, Yun Zhi's body suddenly hardened. She reflexively turned around and threw a tight slap on Xiao Yan's face. In her poor condition, however, her hand that landed on Xiao Yan's face lacked any strength, causing it to appear more like an attempt at massaging a lover.

"Big sis, What if you lose your senses after running out? You should know that there are some Magic Beast which are also interested in human woman. For example, the Co-Ape..."

Once the word 'Co-Ape' entered her ear, Yun Zhi's face became much paler. She had also heard of the lewd beast with this vile name. Just thinking of the possibility of being taken by this filthy being caused her to feel sick.

Being neither able to leave nor stay further drove Yun Zhi to be mad with anxiety. Her small mouth suddenly widened and bit down on Xiao Yan's shoulders. However, being this close to a male scent further caused the heat in her to suddenly increase and soar, much like a firewood meeting an intense flame. The small mouth that had bitten on Xiao Yan's shoulders loosened its grip. A small tongue stealthily slide out and lightly licked on the small wound.

The cool and wet feeling from his shoulders caused Xiao Yan's body to tremble. The flame of desire that he had suppressed with much effort suddenly exploded and soared once again. His arm gradually used more strength as he tightly hugged the soft narrow waist in his arms.

In his dazzled state, Xiao Yan lowered his head and felt a softness on his lips. He opened his mouth, allowing a small moist tongue to mysteriously enter.

When two tongues unexpectedly intertwined, Xiao Yan's eyes suddenly widened. His body had suddenly solidified, much like being struck by lightning. At that moment, only one sentence lingered in his mind.

"I've lost my first kiss..."

Chapter 136: Cave of Youthful Passion

The two tongues continued to be entangled in Xiao Yan's mouth while wave after wave of pleasure continued to invade Xiao Yan's heart. The strength used by his arm grew as if he was attempting to merge the woman in his arms into his body.

Following the growth of the flame of desire in him, Xiao Yan was in a daze as one of his hands involuntarily climbed onto Yun Zhi's narrow waist. It flowed slightly before passing through the black robe and touching the smooth and delicate warm jade-like skin.

As their two bodies made such an intimate contact, both Xiao Yan and Yun Zhi trembled slightly. With his breathing becoming ragged, Xiao Yan slowly shifted his hand upwards. A moment later, he actually grabbed her soft peaks.

With the woman's most sensitive part being invaded, Yun Zhi, who had lost her mind to the flame of desire became slightly awake. Her face became white when she felt their intimate posture. Like lightning, she parted with Xiao Yan, clenched her silver teeth and whispered with great difficulty, "Yao Yan you... if you dare do that to me, I will kill you when I recover my strength in the future!"

Yun Zhi's voice carried a faint numbness due to the flame of desire burning in her, but the serious words carried a slight crying sound.

Like a heavy hammer, Yun Zhi's words heavily smashed onto Xiao Yan's head and immediately helped him escape the control of the flame of desire. Feeling that his hand was actually holding a private spot, Xiao Yan's face turned purple as he hurriedly remove it. He viciously circulated the Dou Qi in his body as he struggled to suppress the writhing flame of desire.

When Xiao Yan was suppressing the flame of desire in him, Yun Zhi's consciousness was once again conquered by the flame of desire. Her arm hugged Xiao Yan's waist as her cheek repeatedly rubbed against Xiao Yan's chest. Just as her consciousness was about to fade, however, a

crystal clear tear fell from Yun Zhi's beautiful eyes. An unclear voice escaped from her attractive red lips, "Yao Yan. If I lose my body to you, I will first kill you then myself!"

The crystal clear tear flowed down her face, finally landing on Xiao Yan's chest. The cold feeling caused a bitterness to surface in Xiao Yan's mouth. Sighing lightly, he asked in his heart, "Teacher, stop playing dead. How can I undo the effect of this thing."

"Ha ha. This is a really good opportunity. This woman likely enjoys a high status in the Jia Ma Empire. If you..." Yao Lao's joking laughter sounded in Xiao Yan's heart.

"Stop fooling around. She's not the type of person who would just leave with anyone who had her body. You heard her just now; if I really took advantage of her, I will be the first person to be killed after she wakes." Xiao Yan bitterly laughed as he shook his head. He lowered his head and saw the red faced hazy eyed noble woman before whispering, "I can feel that she is not joking. Given her character, I'm afraid she'll really do it."

"Ugh, what a good opportunity..." Yao Lao sighed a little regretfully and helplessly said, "Gather your Dou Qi in your hand and massage the acupuncture points on her lower abdomen, thighs and just below her neck. You should know the exact location of these places very well."

"Ugh..." The corner of Xiao Yan's eyes twitched upon hearing these places. Why were they all spots where women were most sensitive? "Teacher, you better not be fooling around. This involves my life." Wiping off his perspiration, Xiao Yan smiled bitterly and said. However, Yao Lao remained silent after Xiao Yan's question. Being left with no other choice, Xiao Yan clenched his teeth, bent his body and carried Yun Zhi's lazy waist before placing her on the stone table.

By then, Yun Zhi's clothes were already partially removed, exposing a large portion of her naked body and presenting an extremely glaring sight. Xiao Yan only became more miserable. Not only did he have to suppress the writhing flame of desire in him, he had to act as a saint in front of this half naked beauty.

Xiao Yan took a deep breath as he slowly extended his hands that were covered with Dou Qi. Facing the barely conscious Yun Zhi, he whispered, "I'm sorry." After saying those words, Xiao Yan no longer hesitated. His hands quickly pulled apart the black robe on Yun Zhi's body, stopping only when half of her snow white chest was revealed.

Xiao Yan was not distracted as he extended three fingers and slowly rubbed on a spot below her neck and half an inch above her breast.

Following the Dou Qi entering her body, the flushed redness on Yun Zhi's face ceased spreading. The seductive moan from her nose had also weakened.

Seeing that it was effective, Xiao Yan's spirit spiked and Dou Qi hurriedly poured into his hand. After massaging for a few minutes, Xiao Yan's gaze shifted downwards and paused on Yun Zhi's lower abdomen. Xiao Yan sighed when faced with this sensitive zone before he continued to part the black robe.

This time around, the act of parting the black robe caused those pair of pert breast to lose their covering and naughtily exposed its nakedness to the air.

Swallowing his saliva, Xiao Yan fingers touched the calm lower abdomen and began to lightly move. Such an intimate touch naturally caused Xiao Yan's heart to swing.

As the Dou Qi was transferred through the spot on the small abdomen, the redness on Yun Zhi's face also subsided. Her pink colored neck also began to gradually returned to its normal whiteness.

After massaging her abdomen for a few minutes, Xiao Yan hurriedly pulled the black robe back up. Next, he began to lift up the black robe that was over Yun Zhi's legs. Xiao Yan did not dare to act impudently at such a spot. When he lifted it sufficiently, he quickly found the right spot and closed his eyes as he used his Dou Qi to ease the flame of desire in Yun Zhi.

When Xiao Yan had his eyes closed, Yun Zhi, who was lying on the bed, tightened her hand. Her long eyelashes continued to quiver as an

expression of shame and anger repeatedly flashed on her face.

A moment later, Xiao Yan was drenched in perspiration as he finally removed his hand. He pulled the black robe downwards and panted roughly. Turning around, he found that Yun Zhi's face had returned to normal and let out a sigh.

During the moment when Xiao Yan sighed, the Dou Qi in his body that was greatly exhausted from helping Yun Zhi suppress her flame of desire almost allowed the flame of desire in him to surface again. With a red face, Xiao Yan bent his body slightly and watched the defenseless beauty lying on the stone bed. He involuntarily stepped forward and lowered his head to watch the tender, beautiful and seductive lips. A fire flashed across his eyes before he slowly lowered his head. Feeling the closing breath, Yun Zhi's hands also began to tighten.

Just as Yun Zhi was preparing to retaliate, the closing breath did not move any closer to her face. After a brief silence, a clear sound of a hard slap sounded in the cave. When the sound died off, the hot breath had slowly distanced itself. The sound of staggering footsteps gradually left the cave.

Only when the sound of the footsteps vanished did Yun Zhi shake her eyelashes and opened her eyes. Seeing the slightly disordered black robe on her body, another tear fell. Although she was clear that the most frightening thing did not occur, Xiao Yan's massage was no different from seeing all of her naked body.

With her position, there was almost no one who dared to be impudent in front of her, much less randomly touching her body. Thinking of how her first kiss which she had preserved for so many years was snatched away by a boy much younger than her in this cave, Yun Zhi felt a crazy desire to cry but no tears appeared.

Having lost her Dou Qi, Yun Zhi appeared less cold and unfeeling than she usually felt. Her unreachable position also seemed to be temporarily sealed in the deep recess of her consciousness.

Had this occurred in the past, Yun Zhi would not hesitate to pull out her

sword and cut Xiao Yan into eighteen pieces. Of course, had her Dou Qi not been sealed, the effect of the aphrodisiac that Xiao Yan had randomly put together would not have been able to cause Yun Zhi to feel even the least bit dizzy.

Lying on the stone bed, Yun Zhi bit her red lips. Her face was constantly flipping between brightness and gloominess without anyone being able to comprehend her thoughts.

After running out of the cave, Xiao Yan crazily dashed towards the waterfall a short distance away. The spreading flame of desire in him had caused his body to feel like a burning charcoal; he continued running for some distance with his red face. The rumbling sound of water soon entered his ears and the moist air that pounced onto his face caused Xiao Yan to feel a little more comfortable.

“Plop!” Upon seeing the lake appearing in his eyes, Xiao Yan jumped into it like a fish. His body sunk to the bottom of the lake, allowing the cold lake water to pacify his hot body.

Xiao Yan took out an ‘Energy Recovery Pill’ from his storage ring and threw it into his mouth, incidentally taking in a few gulps of lake water. Then, at the bottom of the lake, Xiao Yan crossed his legs and began allowing his Dou Qi to circulate and began banishing the flame of desire.

With the provocation from the water and the gradual recovery of his Dou Qi, the heat on Xiao Yan’s body began to recede; the writhing flame of desire in him also began to slowly disappear.

“Plop.” A human head suddenly erupted from the calm lake surface as Xiao Yan wiped the water that adhered to his face and raised his head to watch the sun hanging high in the sky. He weakly let out a breath and slowly swam towards the edge of the lake as he repeatedly took in gulps of air.

Xiao Yan’s narrow eyes stared at the sky when he suddenly licked his lips. The noble and beautiful face of Yun Zhi once again appeared in his eyes. The originally noble, female god like existence had revealed her most seductive and depraved posture to him.

Xiao Yan shook his head as he laughed bitterly in a soft voice. He knew that regardless of what happened in the future, she would always hold a place in his heart as the one who gave him his first taste of a woman.

“Ugh...” Sighing without any reason, Xiao Yan climbed out of the lake and carried an uneasy feeling as he slowly walked back to the cave.

As he was about to reach the cave, Xiao Yan took in a deep breath. He softly mumbled, “She should have woken up, right?”

Holding his own hand, Xiao Yan opened his stride and walked into the cool cave. He directed his gaze to the stone platform and became stunned. Yun Zhi, who was supposed to be lying there, had vanished.

Anxiety flashed across Xiao Yan’s face as he quickly took a few steps forward and was just about to shout when his neck suddenly became cold. A strange looking longsword that carried a no heat was tightly nestled on his throat.

His body suddenly became stiff as Xiao Yan’s eyes gazed to his back. Wearing a black robe, Yun Zhi’s right hand was carrying the longsword as she stood behind him with an icy face.

Chapter 137: Breaking the Seal

The scene inside the cool and refreshing cave was strange and dangerous; a woman held a longsword at a young man's throat.

The icy feeling on his throat caused numerous goosebumps to appear all over Xiao Yan's body. He raised his hands and bitterly smiled in a manner that hoped to clear up any misunderstandings, "I did not do that thing to you."

Hearing this, Yun Zhi's pretty face became a little flushed. In her heart, she thought: You may not have done that to me, but is there any difference between what you have done and that thing?

A glint appeared in her beautiful eyes but the longsword in Yun Zhi's hand did not make the slightest movement. She shifted her gaze and saw the very red handprint on Xiao Yan's face. Evidently, that was the spot where the slapping sound in the cave had originated from.

Staring at the somewhat comical looking handprint, the iciness in Yun Zhi's eyes became a little warmer. A long while later, she let out a dejected sigh and weakly withdrew her longsword before walking towards the interior of the cave. When she passed Xiao Yan, she said blandly, "We will just pretend that whatever happened today did not happen. Otherwise, if the story spreads, it won't be beneficial for you."

Standing on the same spot, Xiao Yan eyed Yun Zhi's graceful and attractive curves from her back before closing his eyes and releasing a bitter sigh. Indeed, such things ought to be forgotten. Compared to her status, he was like a toad that sat at the bottom of a well. Even though the toad had managed to become intimate with the swan because it had fallen into trouble, the vast sky was ultimately where the swan truly belonged while the toad would only be able to stay in the well, staring at the sky.

Dou Huang, a divide that was very difficult to surmount. Maybe Xiao Yan would have the opportunity to step over it but at the very least, it would not be now. This proud and noble woman would also not believe that a young man with only the strength of a Dou Zhe would be able to

achieve that level. Xiao Yan may have talent but that did not mean that he would be able to become a Dou Huang.

“A dream leaves no traces...” Xiao Yan shook his head and whispered as he followed Yun Zhi further into the cave. Watching the cold faced Yun Zhi who had shut her eyes as she attempted to break the seal, he shrugged his shoulders. He sat down at a corner, closed his eyes and began training his Dou Qi

Following the quietness of the two, an awkward and embarrassing atmosphere descended into the interior of the cave. It appeared that the pair had difficulty returning to the harmony of the past few days.

The silent atmosphere persisted until noon. During this time, Xiao Yan went out to catch a few fish and was absent minded sitting beside the fire and rotating the wooden rod. His heart suddenly became aware of something and lifted his head, only for his gaze to clash with a pair of livid beautiful eyes.

The two gazes met and instantly shifted away, acting as though nothing had happened.

Xiao Yan rotated the grilled fish once more before extracting one of them and handing it over to Yun Zhi.

“You can eat it. I’m not hungry.” Yun Zhi lowered her head as she softly said. Just as she said those words, she felt her abdomen contract. However, she remained stubborn, closing her eyes and ignored her stomach’s protest.

“Relax. That thing has already been disposed of by me.” Seeing that Yun Zhi’s refusal to receive the fish, Xiao Yan could only smile and utter a cold joke.

Yun Zhi opened her eyes, pressed her lips closely together and lifted her head only to find a young man with a warm smile beside the fire. A softness flashed in her eyes. It was undeniable that this delicate and handsome look of Xiao Yan’s along with his age gave others the impression of a harmless person.

Only when she stared at the grilled fish did Yun Zhi recall that this entire incident started because of the fish that she had grilled. The young man in front of her had simply faced an unexpected misfortune. Although this unexpected misfortune was something that any man would love to experience...

Letting out a sigh, Yun Zhi extended her hand and received the grilled fish in front of her. Her small mouth opened and was about to touch it when the Xiao Yan suddenly called, "Be careful. It's still a little hot."

Hearing Xiao Yan's words, Yun Zhi could not help but become distracted. She immediately gave him a supercilious look and said, "Which Dou Huang have you seen cared about this little bit of heat?"

Xiao Yan gave an embarrassed smile, grabbed a grilled fish and gorged it down.

With small bites, Yun Zhi slowly transferred the fish meat into her small mouth and began to relax. Perhaps because of the caring words that Xiao Yan had said out of the blue. She swallowed the food and said softly, "I should be able to break the seal by tomorrow."

Xiao Yan's large chewing motion suddenly paused and he swallowed the things in his mouth. He sighed. For some reason, he had the feeling that when Yun Zhi once again regained the strength of a Dou Huang, the pleasant relationship that they had would be broken. In the future, she would continue to be the superior Dou Huang she was while he would still be an ant that was fighting to become a Dou Shi. It would be difficult for the two to ever interact again.

Thinking to this point, Xiao Yan began to feel that the fragrant grilled fish had become tasteless. In a few bites, he finished eating it and vaguely said, "Really? Congratulations."

"After recovering my strength, I will once again go and find the Amethyst Winged Lion." Appearing not to have felt Xiao Yan's mood, Yun Zhi continued her own conversation.

"I hope that you would continue to be sealed by it...." The sentence suddenly came from Xiao Yan's mouth which was busily chewing the fish.

Hearing the words, Yun Zhi's eyebrows straightened. She angrily threw the grilled fish at Xiao Yan and lashed out, "You jinx. What are you saying?"

Xiao Yan flipped his hand and caught the flying grilled fish. He saw the small teeth marks on it and grinned. He began to bite at it in a manner that suggested he was handling a treasure of sorts.

Watching Xiao Yan holding the grilled fish which she had eaten from and repeatedly biting from it, a bright red color faintly appeared on Yun Zhi's face. She softly spat, "Eat it. Let it choke you to death!"

After finishing the fish, Xiao Yan burped before tilting his head and asked, "This may appear like nonsense but I still want to ask. Do you want my help?"

After hearing Xiao Yan's words, Yun Zhi became silent and actually nodded her head. Seeing the dumbfounded expression on Xiao Yan's face, she explained softly, "The Purple Spirit Crystal is usually placed in the Amethyst Winged Lion's cave. The previous time, I had intended to sneak in but it discovered me... When I recover my strength tomorrow, I will once again distract the Amethyst Winged Lion. As for you,,, I hope you can enter the Amethyst Winged Lion's cave and help me seek the Purple Spirit Crystal."

"It won't be a problem providing help, but... it may be shameful to say this but as a Dou Zhe, any rank three Magic Beast that appears in this inner region of the Magic Beast Mountain Range would be able to easily finish me off." Xiao Yan laughed bitterly as he waved his hand.

"You need not worry about this. After I break the seal tomorrow, I will use a secret technique that would allow you to gain some strength for a short duration. With this strength, you should be able to enter the inner regions of the Magic Beast Mountain Range. After all, seldom does Magic Beasts enter the cave of the Amethyst Winged Lion." Yun Zhi said.

Xiao Yan slightly nodded his head.

"Put this crystal on. As long as you are near the Purple Spirit Crystal, it will become hot. You will just need to rely on its temperature to find the

Purple Spirit Crystal.” Yun Zhi removed a dark green rhombus shaped crystal from her storage ring and handed it over to Xiao Yan as she spoke with a smile.

Xiao Yan received the crystal and hung it around his neck. Then he lifted his head, he smiled, “I will do my best.”

Watching Xiao Yan’s smile, Yun Zhi slightly inclined her head. Having said all that needed to be said, the two no longer had any topic to converse. The atmosphere once again became silent.

“Go and rest. I still need to train for a little while.” Xiao Yan broke the silence and threw Yun Zhi a smile. He sat crossed legged on a stone platform at the side, closed his eyes and entered into a training mode.

Seated on the stone bed, Yun Zhi stared at the young man with a handsome face for a long while before she lightly sighed. She slowly lay down and mumbled to herself, “Go to sleep. Once you wake tomorrow, you will forget everything.”

A long while after the stony cave was silent, the closed eyed Xiao Yan who was in training suddenly opened his eyes. He turned his head and watched the sleeping beauty, Yun Zhi, lying on the stone bed. Slowly getting off the stone platform, he came to the bedside and swept his gaze over the elegant and attractive curves. Finally, his eyes landed on the beautiful face with a slightly knitted eyebrows.

Xiao Yan’s gaze stared intently at this pretty face that he may never get the chance to look directly at ever again. After a moment, Xiao Yan withdrew a huge black robe from his storage ring and lightly placed it over Yun Zhi’s body before turning around and walking towards the cave entrance with the large Heavy Xuan Ruler on his back. Night was the time when the Magic Beasts were most active so he needed to maintain watch at all times.

When Xiao Yan turned around, the closed eyed sleeping Yun Zhi abruptly opened her eyes. She quietly looked at the disappearing back of a figure carrying the strange looking black colored large ruler. Her hand caressed the black robe covering her body and within her serene heart,

unknown ripples had begun to rise.

“Ah...” A soft sigh from within the cave slowly died.

...

When the warm dawn shined upon the sleeping Xiao Yan, his sleepy eyes began to open. At the moment he did so, he suddenly and swiftly turned his head around.

Yun Zhi was sitting crossed legged on the stone bed in the cave. The strange looking longsword was placed on her legs. Today, she had changed into a snow white plain dress and her originally lazy looking phoenix hair style had once again been gathered together, giving off a faint noble feeling. Her beautiful face was calm and elegant, leaving no trace of the weakness that she had the last few days.

Appearing as though she had felt Xiao Yan waking up, Yun Zhi's eyes also opened. Her beautiful pupils swept towards Xiao Yan as she faintly asked, “Awake?”

The voice was as clear as it had always been, but this time around, it carried a little coldness. The indifferent tone was similar to that of a conversation between strangers.

After sweeping his gaze on Yun Zhi, Xiao Yan slowly sighed. He tilted his head and asked, “The seal, is it broken?”

“Yes.” Yun Zhi nodded emotionlessly and moved her body slightly. When she next appeared, she was standing right in front of Xiao Yan. She lowered her pretty eyes, stared at Xiao Yan's face and said, “Let's get going. Once we are outside, I will help to temporarily raise your strength.”

Once she finished her sentence, she turned around and lead the way towards the exit with her alluring and graceful footsteps.

Lifting his head, Xiao Yan watched the back of the beautiful figure leaving the cave and suddenly said, “I like the Yun Zhi of the past few days... I don't really like the you now.”

At the cave exit, the beautiful figure stilled. She stayed at the same spot

for a moment before once more opening her stride and exiting the cave.

Chapter 138: Joint Operation

As the sun stood at the apex of the sky, Xiao Yan looked up to gaze at the graceful and slender figure that stood atop a huge rock. From the horizon, sunshine poured out, spilling itself onto the figure and adding a faint layer of radiance to the already glorious spectacle.

At present, Yun Zhi's appearance looked similar to when she had battled with the Amethyst Winged Lion while Xiao Yan had hidden to one side and watched; filled with grace and nobleness. The haughtiness from her pure and cold demeanor had a way to cause others to feel ashamed of their inferiority.

As if sensing Xiao Yan's gaze, Yun Zhi unhurriedly turned around and lightly raised her eyes to meet the gaze of the pitch-black pair of eyes. Soon after, she quickly turned them away and informed him in a dull tone, "I will let you possess a Dou Shi level of power for a short period of time and since I am of the wind attribute, your speed will be amplified quite a bit. If any Magic Beast tries to obstruct you, try your best not to fight it or else the sounds of battle will draw even more Magic Beasts to you. If that happens, I'm afraid you will....." At this point, Yun Zhi suddenly stopped and slightly turning her head, she stared at Xiao Yan.

"En." Eyelids droopy, it seemed that Xiao Yan did not hear the implication within Yun Zhi's words that she had accidentally let out, he only slightly nodded his head.

Gazing at the look of serenity on Xiao Yan's face that surpassed even her own, without knowing why, Yun Zhi's eyebrows slightly knitted together. A short while later, she floated down the huge rock, appearing at Xiao Yan's side and then softly asked, "Shall we start?"

"Okay."

Seeing Xiao Yan's nod, Yun Zhi's jade-like hands slowly stretched forward before lightly pressing against Xiao Yan's back. With a light tap of her fingers, a turbulent Dou Qi energy ferociously poured into Xiao Yan and instead of rebelling due to the foreignness of the body, the Dou Qi

meekly flowed through Xiao Yan's channels under the control of Yun Zhi's will.

The flow of this vigorous Dou Qi caused Xiao Yan's body to feel an unprecedented amount of power. Slightly twisting his body, as if he had been reborn, the bones all throughout his body continuously emitted cracking sounds.

Tightly clenching his fist, a curious look appeared on Xiao Yan's face; was this the power of a Dou Shi? As expected, it can't be compared to that of a Dou Zhe's.

Casually bouncing on his soles, Xiao Yan found that his body seemed to be much more agile than before. Evidently, this should be due to the Wind Attribute Dou Qi within his body, no wonder those Dou Zhe's who practiced Wind Attribute Qi Techniques were so fast and nimble.

"This Dou Qi is enough to last you for two hours. During these two hours, you need to retrieve the Purple Spirit Crystal from the cave of the Amethyst Winged Lion." Yun Zhi softly reminded, "I will do my best to stall it but you still need to watch the time; that brute's intelligence is in no way inferior to that of a human's. If by chance he realizes something, I'm afraid that there will not be any more chances next time."

"Okay, shall we leave?" Xiao Yan nodded as he fixed his eyes on the soul-stirring complexion of the person beside him and then smiled.

"Yes." Yun Zhi slightly inclined her head and with a slight jolt, a pair of green colored wings of energy slowly sprouted from her back. Yet when she lifted her head to look at Xiao Yan's action, she was stunned. Though soon after a captivating redness appeared on her good-looking face, humiliated and angry, she chided, "What are you doing?"

Currently in an hugging posture, Xiao Yan's eyes widened when he heard Yun Zhi's question. Extremely amazed, he retorted, "With such a long distance, you could not possibly leave me to run there by myself right? If by chance I encounter a rank four or five Magic Beast, won't my journey prematurely end?"

With her long eyelashes trembling, a split second later, Yun Zhi could

only deeply sigh as she grudgingly nodded.

Seeing her acceptance, the corners of Xiao Yan's mouth slightly lifted, slowly walking forward, he once again hugged this noble woman into his embrace.

"Don't try anything funny or else I will throw you off!" In her sober state and also having recovered all her power, Yun Zhi's tender body slightly trembled as she once again found herself in the embrace of the youngster before her. Slowly breathing in, she forcefully suppressed her nervous heart before she icily threatened.

Xiao Yan smiled as he nodded, muttering in a low voice, "I have already touched everything I should have."

Yun Zhi's good-looking face slightly flushed as she pretended not to hear his mutterings, with a light shake, the two wings on her back brought the two people speedily away from the ground and a moment later, they were flying high in the skies.

Just as they ascended into the skies, like an octopus, Xiao Yan wrapped himself around Yun Zhi which caused her good-looking face to be angered till it turned a tad white. In mere moments, this guy had already thrown her words to the wind; he was super thick skinned.

Yun Zhi wore an icy-cold expression on her good-looking face as she increased her speed to the maximum. High in the air, a green light flashed as their figures already flew over a hundred meters ahead.

"Oh, right, what star Dou Huang are you?" Paying no mind to clouds that flew past his ear, Xiao Yan stuck his mouth right next to Yun Zhi's tender earlobe as he suddenly opened his mouth to inquire.

As his warm breath caressed her ears, Yun Zhi's currently flying body violently swayed. A grudging expression flitted across her beautiful eyes as she answered with a dull tone, "Three star."

"Then how many stars is the Amethyst Winged Lion?" Xiao Yan frowned as he followed up on his inquiry.

"Magic Beasts don't have a clear star rating but if you want to compare

using the likes of Dou Skills and Dou Qi, it can at best contend against a two star Dou Huang. However, the Amethyst Winged Lion is known for it's physical fighting capabilities and can match up with a four or even five star Dou Huang practitioner." Fully concentrating on flying, Yun Zhi serenely said, "To sum it up, it's strength could perhaps be counted as a three star Dou Huang."

"No wonder after it got close that day, you were defeated so quickly. That guy's melee attack is indeed very strong, the wound on your chest....." Xiao Yan nodded his head, as if he had some point in mind. Before he could finish, to his horror, he found his body suddenly drop a substantial distance. He hastily hugged Yun Zhi tightly in alarm and lifting his head, he saw her cheeks puff out in anger and humiliation; thus he had no alternative but to helplessly shake his head.

"Any more rubbish from you and I will really throw you down!" Towards this blabbing guy, Yun Zhu had no way to deal with him other than to threaten him.

"Alright, then I won't say anymore....." Xiao Yan forced a smile as he nodded his head, he was really afraid of provoking this woman; if she threw him down, that would be the end of it all.

"But, although your wounds have recovered, when I last looked, there were still some ugly scars remaining." Though these unfathomable words blew out of Xiao Yan's mouth like a whirlwind and caused the expression Yun Zhi's good-looking face to suddenly grow heavy. Dou Qi gradually gathered in her body as she prepared to throw this guy, who kept testing her patience, down.

"In the future, I will help you compound some medicine that will remove those ugly scars. For such a beautiful woman, leaving these scars would not be good." Each word that escaped Xiao Yan's mouth caused a slight tremble in the depths of Yun Zhi's heart. Looking down at the earnest face of the youngster, the gathering Dou Qi gradually dispersed; feigning a dull tone, she replied, "No need, once I am done here, there will be little chance of us meeting in the future."

These words caused Xiao Yan to pause. Soon after, he inwardly mocked himself as he shook his head, looks like he was still wet behind the ears; the other party was a Dou Huang practitioner, it was a simple matter for her to obtain pills that removed scars.....

Xiao Yan quieted down as he finally shut his mouth. On the remaining journey, although Yun Zhi had her wish fulfilled and obtained peacefulness, she could not fathom why her heart felt slightly suffocated without the constant cawing of the youth at her ear. Silently, they landed on a messy rock pile.

After landing, Xiao Yan extremely conscientiously let go of Yun Zhi as his gaze swept over the huge mountain range in the distance. At the top of the mountain range, a massive cave was faintly discernable under the cover of branches.

“Is that the Amethyst Winged Lion’s cave?” As he stood behind a rock, Xiao Yan cautiously cast his line of sight towards the mountain top as he quietly asked.

“Yes.” Lightly nodding, Yun Zhi’s gaze slowly swept across the nearby areas of the cave, her amber-black eyebrows slightly knitted before saying: “The surrounding defenses have increased a lot, looks like that guy has increased security.”

“For the high ranked Magic Beasts at the cave entrance, I will try my best to kill or injure them. As for you, chose the best time to stealthily slip into the cave.” Yun Zhi turned her head and warned.

“Okay.” Xiao Yan nodded, indicating that he understood.

Seeing that all the instructions had been given, Yun Zhi felt slightly relieved. Just as she was about to fly off, she leaned her head towards Xiao Yan and said softly, “You.....be careful, make sure nothing bad happens.”

With a faint smile, Xiao Yan said, “You should also be careful, although I would really like it if you were once again sealed, I still hope that nothing will happen to you.”

Helplessly shaking her head, Yun Zhi no longer lingered. The wings on

her back shook as her wonderful figure leaped agilely into the air before flying towards the massive cave as fast as lightning.

Yun Zhi's figure was not concealed, thus when she entered the area within a hundred meters of the cave, continuous waves of animal howls resounded across the mountain range.

With a flick of her jade-like hand, the bizarre green colored sword appeared. Yun Zhi's figure transformed into a green colored light and in a flash she rushed into the dense forests surrounding the cave. Immediately, mournful howls sounded out one by one. Numerous Magic Beasts fled in panic from the vicinity of the cave; in front of a Dou Huang, these ferocious Magic Beasts did not display even the slightest bit of fierceness.

"Human woman! You still dare to appear?! Today I will take your life as compensation for my horn!"

As Yun Zhi killed the guarding Magic Beasts, from within the massive cave dwelling, the Amethyst Winged Lion's furious roar suddenly exploded through the skies.

In the wake of the roar, a brilliant violet light flared out of the cave like lightning before suddenly shooting towards the forest; in an instant, the dense forest was transformed into rubble.

The dense forest was wrecked while two lights, one green, one violet, chased each other as they rushed towards the horizon before beginning their violent clash thousands of meters up in the sky.

His eyes glanced at the battle high in the skies as Xiao Yan also finally began to move, the soles of his feet stepped off the ground as his figure transformed into a shadow and quickly burrowed into the dense forest before scuttling towards the cave atop the mountain.

Quite a while later, as Xiao Yan passed by the dense forest Yun Zhi had originally entered and the sight of the lifeless bodies of many rank three and above gigantic Magic Beasts who lay in pools of blood was reflected in his eyes.

This bloody sight caused Xiao Yan to smack his lips at Yun Zhi's

ruthlessness and although the corpses of the Magic Beasts on the ground might have high ranked magic stones, Xiao Yan had no time to search. He quickly leapt over these bodies before scuttling out of the dense forest.

Out of the dense forests, an impressively massive cave quickly appeared in his line of sight.

Chapter 139: Amethyst Lion Birth Essence

Most of the Magic Beasts guarding the dwelling's entrance had been finished off by Yun Zhi. Due. However, two rank three Magic Beasts at the back were still alive and were uneasily watching the intense fight in the sky. The aftereffects of the battle that fell from the sky caused them to grovel on the ground as they continuously shivered.

Xiao Yan frowned as he observed these two rank three Magic Beasts that were lying on the ground tens of meters away from the cave entrance. He quickly took out a bottle of medicinal powder from his storage ring and poured all of it over his body. This medicinal powder was carefully made by him and could hide the scent on his body to avoid detection by the Magic Beasts which had a superior sense of smell.

After making a detour around the dense woods, Xiao Yan climbed up towards the cave entrance, using the rocks as cover. He stealthily came to a spot directly above the cave and stared intently at the two trembling Magic Beasts. He paused for a second before taking out some soft cloth from the storage ring to tied around his feet.

With this preparation completed, Xiao Yan took in a deep breath before suddenly leaping from a spot just above the cave. He somersaulted in midair and lightly landed on the ground.

The moment his feet touched the ground, Xiao Yan bent his body and abruptly shot into the cave's interior.

As Xiao Yan's figure disappeared into the cave, one of the rank three Magic Beasts shifted its gaze over. When it found nothing, it appeared a little uncertain as it looked back towards the battle. Once again, its body quivered under the battle high in the sky.

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Upon entering the cave, Xiao Yan realised that it was much brighter than he had expected. There were some purple colored crystals latched onto the surrounding cave walls. These crystal pieces were naturally formed in the cave and would be extremely valuable decorations in the

human world.

The deep and spacious interior of the cave that was decorated with these purple crystal pieces appeared scenic. Seeing this naturally formed dwelling, Xiao Yan exclaimed; this lion which had gained intelligence really knew how to enjoy himself.

Xiao Yan carefully walked in the cave. As Yun Zhi had described, there were no other Magic Beasts within the cave. As he transversed the cave, there was no other sound other than his soft footsteps.

After passing through the long cave tunnel for a while, an intersection with two paths appeared in front of him.

Xiao Yan knitted his eyebrows together and stared at the two paths. He was silent for a moment. Finally, he opened his stride and carefully walked into the path on the left. This tunnel was constantly winding, causing Xiao Yan to make a number of turns. As Xiao Yan walked further into the cave, he suddenly realized that the surrounding temperature was growing increasingly higher.

The cautiousness in Xiao Yan prompted him to pause his footsteps. He then wiped the perspiration from his forehead and watched the purple light that was coming from the distant exit. He rubbed his hand and immediately released a long breath. The Dou Qi in his body slowly began to circulate along with the wind attribute Dou Qi that Yun Zhi had placed in his body. Once his preparations were complete, Xiao Yan continued to walk forward.

Seeing that the exit was very close to him, Xiao Yan did his best to soften the sound of his footsteps. He then stealthily extended half his head and quickly swept his gaze across the spacious interior of the cave.

Unexpectedly, Xiao Yan did not find any traces of a Magic Beast when he swept his gaze across the room. He blinked his eyes. Once again, he observed the room for a good while before reassuringly walking in.

Xiao Yan glanced all over the cave as he approached its center. Eventually, his gaze landed on the middle of the cave. There was a meter high square table like object formed from the accumulation of Amethyst

stones at the center of the cave. On it was a purple colored ball the size of Xiao Yan's head.

After staring intently at the purple colored ball, Xiao Yan suddenly realized that the heat within the cave originated from this thing.

Shock filled his eyes. He did not expect that that this thing actually possessed such an enormous amount of energy. His gaze once again swept across his surroundings as he doubtfully mumbled, "Don't tell me that this is that Purple Spirit Crystal? But why doesn't the crystal she gave me turn hot?" As he spoke, Xiao Yan took out the rhombus shaped crystal from his chest area, exposing it to the air. Despite waiting for a while, the crystal remained icy cool.

Xiao Yan put the crystal away and with a snail-like pace, walked towards the purple spirit rock table. As he moved closer, he felt a faint heat wave hitting him, causing Xiao Yan to once again express shock for the heat energy that the thing contained.

Bending down, Xiao Yan fixated his eyes on this mysterious purple ball. A thought struck him and he suddenly shouted in his heart, "Teacher. Come out and see what this is."

Hearing Xiao Yan's shout, Yao Lao finally floated lightly out of the ring. His gaze swept at the purple colored ball and instantly raised his old eyebrows. Surprise flashed in his eyes as he softly gasped, "This... don't tell me this is the Amethyst Lion Birth Essence? Lucky boy. You actually managed to find this!"

"Amethyst Lion Birth Essence? What is that?" The unfamiliar name caused Xiao Yan to frown as he curiously asked.

"Tsk tsk. This is an excellent item..." Floating in the air, Yao Lao revolved around the purple colored ball as he clicked his tongue and praised, "The Amethyst Winged Lion is a Magic Beast with innate talents. Otherwise, it would be difficult for it to become a rank six Magic Beast. When the Amethyst Lion gives birth, there is an extremely small chance that she would also give birth to this kind of Amethyst Lion Birth Essence along with the baby Magic Beast."

“As this Amethyst Lion Birth Essence stayed within the womb of the Lion King for a long time, it contains an incredible amount of pure energy. As long as the young Lion King swallows this Amethyst Lion Birth Essence after it has grown to a rank four Magic Beast, it will be able to immediately become a rank five Magic Beast. Moreover, the purple flame in its body would be stronger than those Amethyst Winged Lions that did not swallow this Amethyst Lion Birth Essence.”

After Yao Lao finished his explanation, he sucked his lips and said, “Back then. I did not manage to find it despite breaking into eight Amethyst Winged Lion’s caves . Unexpectedly, you managed to find it.”

“Woah. It is that good?” Xiao Yan’s eyes instantly brightened after hearing Yao Lao’s explanation. He pounced onto the amethyst stone table and grabbed the Accompanying Amethyst with both his hands.

“Ahh!” An oppressive hiss exited Xiao Yan’s mouth just as his hand touched the Amethyst Lion Birth Essence. He drew a breath of cold air and hurriedly withdrew both his hands. When he noticed the burnt palms, he quickly took out some healing medicine and applied it. With a shock filled face, he said, “What a high temperature. How do I take it away?”

“Ha ha, the temperature is naturally high. Additionally, this Amethyst Lion Birth Essence has already become stuck to the amethyst stone table. If you want to take it away, you must dig it out of the cave.” Yao Lao gloated

“Dig it out?” Hearing this, the color of Xiao Yan’s face turned ugly. He swept his gaze under the amethyst stone table which extended into the ground for an unknown depth. With just him alone, he would not be able to get it out even if he dug for a few years.

Noticing that Xiao Yan’s gaze was directed towards him, Yao Lao shook his head and smiled, “Don’t look at me. I may be able to take this thing away, but it would cause a large amount of movement that would attract the attention of the Amethyst Winged Lion outside. Moreover, even if we did take this thing away, you would never be able to open this Amethyst Lion Birth Essence.”

“What do you mean?” Xiao Yan quickly asked, unwilling to lose a treasure that was in front of him.

“Other than swallowing it whole, the only other method is to forcefully smash this Amethyst Lion Birth Essence and harvest the Amethyst Essence within it. But for some reason, it is difficult to smash it open with outside force. Uh... it means that the other shell of this thing has some sort of engulfing ability. Any attack would be swallowed by it.” Yao Lao waved his hand and explained.

“Swallow it whole?” The corner of Xiao Yan’s mouth twitched as he eyed the purple colored ball the size of his head. Forget about its high temperature, its very size meant that Xiao Yan would not be able to swallow it even if he stretched his throat till it broke.

“What can we do? Since you were searching for this back then, you must know of a method right?” After vexing for a while, a thought struck Xiao Yan and he turned his head around to ask Yao Lao.

“Indeed. Simply relying on brute force would not open this thing. There is only one thing that can achieve it.” Yao Lao said mysteriously.

“What is it?” Xiao Yan hurriedly asked, his eyes filled with happiness.

“Ha ha,” Yao Lao smiled and abruptly diverted his gaze to the rhombus crystal that Xiao Yan was wearing around his neck.

“This crystal? No... You mean the Purple Spirit Crystal?” Xiao Yan blanked before he came to a realization.

“Correct. Only the Purple Spirit Crystal can smash open this thing.” Yao Lao nodded, extremely pleased with Xiao Yan’s reaction.

“Then what are we waiting for? Let’s find the Purple Spirit Crystal!” Hearing Yao Lao’s words, Xiao Yan turned around and ran. The Purple Spirit Crystal was obviously not present in the place; it should be in the other tunnel.

“Oh, that’s right. I forgot to warn you that since an Amethyst Lion Birth Essence is present, then... there should also be a young Amethyst Winged Lion.” Floating behind Xiao Yan, Yao Lao said with a smile.

Xiao Yan's rushing footsteps suddenly paused and the corner of his eyes twitched. A while later, he viciously said, "Dammit. If it dares to hinder me, I will kill it. I don't believe that it is as aggressive as the one outside." With that, Xiao Yan dashed out of the cave with great speed.

"How courageous." Yao Lao smiled as he watched Xiao Yan's back. Immediately, he added, "But you overestimate your abilities. Ha ha."

When Xiao Yan successfully exited from the tunnel, he turned around and dashed towards the other tunnel. Knowing that there was a young Amethyst Winged Lion, Xiao Yan was extra careful. When he walked, he did not even dare to randomly step on the stones on the ground.

After walking along the tunnel for a short while, the sight before him widened.

Xiao Yan leaned tightly on the cave entrance as he slowly scanned the interior of the cave that was covered by Amethyst stone.

When his scanning eyes reached the middle part of the cave, it gradually stopped. Here, a small sized Amethyst Winged Lion laid on the ground in a creeping position and was quietly sleeping.

Seeing the sleeping small sized Amethyst Winged Lion, Xiao Yan swallowed his saliva and wiped the cold sweat on his forehead.

"Ha ha. This young beast is only rank three. Go on." Behind him, Yao Lao joking voice quietly sounded.

Chapter 140: Obtaining the Amethyst Essence

“Rank three?”

Hearing this, Xiao Yan wiped the cold sweat off his face. Even with the Dou Qi that Yun Zhi had left in his body, he would not be able to finish off this young Amethyst Winged Lion with its abnormal defense.

Tightly pressing his eyebrows together, Xiao Yan stared at the young Amethyst Winged Lion lying on the ground. After worrying for a moment, he turned his gaze towards Yao Lao and probed, “Why doesn’t Teacher kill that little thing?”

“I’ve said before that once you enter the Magic Beast Mountain Range, you will have to rely on yourself. Unless it comes to a life or death situation, I will not help you.” Yao Lao smiled as he gently swayed above Xiao Yan’s head.

“Damn, you are heartless!” Xiao Yan’s eyelids twitched as he pointed his middle finger at Yao Lao before helplessly mumbling, “I don’t believe that I cannot get rid of it.”

“You don’t really intend to directly try to finish it off, do you? That guy may not appear very large, but when it comes to combat strength, it is one of the strongest amongst the rank three Magic Beasts. With your little body, even if you used the Di Rank Dou Technique, you would still be hard pressed to kill it.” Yao Lao said, a warning tone in his voice.

“I would only take him head on if I was an idiot.” Xiao Yan leaned against a rock wall and sat down. From his storage ring, he took out a large number of things and began flipping through them. Finally, he took out a pale purple fruit and a bottle of green liquid.

“Purple Smoke Fruit?” Seeing the pale purple fruit in Xiao Yan’s hand, Yao Lao softly said, “Ha, you seemed to be quite well adapted to actually recall that a fire type Magic Beast loves this thing.”

The Purple Smoke Fruit was a special fruit that could be found in the

Magic Beast Mountain Range. As this fruit contained a little fire energy in it, it was well loved by many kinds of fire type Magic Beasts.

Ignoring Yao Lao, Xiao Yan once again removed a hollow tube with a crystal needle and stuck it in the bottle of green colored liquid. Afterwards, he extracted some of the green liquid and carefully injected it into the fruit. With a light squeeze, the green coloured liquid was poured into the fruit.

“Oh, you are thinking of using poison? That Amethyst Winged Lion has quite a strong immunity. With the poisons that you have created, do you think you can cause it to collapse?” Seeing Xiao Yan’s action, Yao Lao could not help but ask with a suspicious tone.

“Who said that this was poison?” Xiao Yan licked his mouth and chillingly laughed, “This is a strong laxative that I created. As long as it eats it, I am certain that it will have to go the bathroom non-stop regardless of how strong its immunity is.”

“Tsk tsk. To think you still have this up your sleeve. But you should not underestimate the intelligence of a rank three Magic Beast. It may not be as smart as the one outside but its intelligence is something that cannot be compared with a rank one or two Magic Beast. It would not eat things of unknown origins.” Yao Lao gave Xiao Yan a thumbs up before speaking.

“Doesn’t eat it? Ha ha. That isn’t up to him. Regardless of how one puts it, a beast is a beast.” Xiao Yan grinned and took out another bottle of red colored liquid from his storage ring. When he opened it, a great fragrance that caused one’s stomach to rumble came floating out.

Just as the smell began to spread, Xiao Yan hurriedly replaced the cap and sneakily said, “This is the liquid from an Anorexia Flower. As long as it is inserted into the Purple Smoke Fruit, I don’t believe that that little beast would be able to resist the allure of delicacy.”

Watching Xiao Yan repeatedly taking things from his storage ring, Yao Lao was somewhat speechless. Xiao Yan’s interesting choices in refining medicine were both funny and annoying. His body slightly drifted and asked again, “Even if it ate the fruit, your plan would fail if it clears its

bowels here.”

“I have taken a look inside and did not find any dirty Magic Beast feces. Additionally, I did not find it anywhere else along the way here. I think that the Amethyst Winged Lions has a habit of cleanliness. A Magic Beast that is actually particular about cleanliness? How strange... also, please stop asking questions. This plan is just an impromptu thought, so how can it be perfect? It is difficult to say whether or not it will work.”

After saying those words, Xiao Yan ignored Yao Lao’s questions as he transferred about seven or eight tubes of the green colored liquid before adding the Anorexia Flower juice. Only then did he stop. He tossed the heavy fruit in his hand and smiled. Once he returned everything to his storage ring, he gently placed the Purple Smoke Fruit at the entrance to the cave.

Xiao Yan placed the fruit properly and jumped off the ground; his body shooting towards the ceiling of the tunnel. Using an intense suction force on both hands, he firmly nailed his body to the rock wall.

Almost immediately after the Purple Smoke Fruit was placed at the cave entrance, a fragrant scent was slowly emitted. With the help of the wind, this scent began spreading into the cave.

The small Amethyst Winged Lion’s nose twitched as it sucked deeply in.

When the first whiff entered its stomach, a deep noise sounded from the young Amethyst Winged Lion’s stomach. It slowly opened its beast eyes and shook its large head around the spacious cave, searching for the source of the fragrance.

After the search went on for a moment, the young Amethyst Winged Lion finally found the target. It lazily stood up and let out a low roar from its huge mouth before it opened its steps and strolled towards the cave entrance.

Arriving at the cave entrance, the young Amethyst Winged Lion’s nose sniffed at the Purple Smoke Fruit. Instantly, it lifted its head and swept an alert gaze across its surroundings. It then extended its large paw and gently touched the Purple Smoke Fruit. A short silence later, it waved its

tail, turned around and left.

Through a small crack, Xiao Yan watched the young Amethyst Winged Lion turn around to leave and could not help but sigh in disappointment. It seemed like the alertness of this little thing was higher than what he had thought.

Just as Xiao Yan was planning of thinking of another plan, the young Amethyst Winged Lion which had walked for around half the distance to the spot it had rested suddenly turned around again. It dashed to where the Purple Smoke Fruit was, extended its tongue and swallowed it.

Seeing its action, Xiao Yan finally heaved a long sigh of relief. He whispered, "Dammit. Even I almost ended up eating it. I knew you would eat it."

After eating the Purple Smoke Fruit, the young Amethyst Winged Lion once again laid down on the beautiful ground made of amethyst stone. A moment later, it suddenly stood up as its stomach made a muffled rumbling noise. It swept its gaze around the interior and under the relieved gaze of Xiao Yan, finally dashed towards the cave entrance and out of the tunnel at an extreme speed.

"It succeeded!" Seeing the young Amethyst Winged Lion disappear, Xiao Yan could not resist letting out a joyful cry. He leapt down from the ceiling and seizing every minute, hurried into the cave interior that was covered with amethyst stones.

Standing in the interior of the cave, Xiao Yan took out the crystal that was beginning to turn hot. He held it in his hand and using its temperature as a direction indicator, slowly moved in the cave filled with amethyst rocks.

After moving around the cave for a long while, Xiao Yan's footsteps finally came to a stop at the spot where the young Amethyst Winged Lion had rested. He slightly lowered his body and extended his hand, lightly knocking on the tens of amethyst stones near him.

When his finger knocked on an amethyst stone that was leaning on one side, it instantly emitted a hollow sound.

Xiao Yan was slightly surprised when he heard the sound. With great speed, he groped and pulled the slate. A purple light burst out, forcing Xiao Yan to hurriedly closed his eyes as the light pierced his eyes.

After waiting for the pain in his eyes to subside, Xiao Yan once again gradually opened them. His gaze swept onto the small hole. In it was a fist size purple colored spirit stone that was oddly sharp. A bright light flowed on top of the purple colored spirit stone, giving it a beautiful appearance.

Upon the appearance of this sharp purple colored spirit stone, the crystal in Xiao Yan's hand grew as hot as fire. Immediately, Xiao Yan hurriedly stored the crystal into the ring and carefully took the purple colored spirit stone from within the small hole and also stored it into the storage ring.

Having obtained the Purple Spirit Crystal, Xiao Yan restored the hole to its original condition. Following that, he got up and made a mad dash towards the tunnel's exit. He continued running through the long tunnel and finally reached the intersection.

Xiao Yan stood there and alertly scanned his surroundings. A crazy happiness appeared on his face as he once again rushed with all his might towards the cave that led to where the Amethyst Lion Birth Essence was.

After running for a long while, a familiar cave entrance appeared. Xiao Yan hurriedly stopped his advance and carefully checked the cave's interior before reassuringly entering it.

He sped towards the stone table where the Amethyst Lion Birth Essence was and greedily stared at the purple colored ball. Within it was a large amount of energy that was sufficient to help the young Amethyst Winged Lion be promoted by one rank. Even if he could not absorb all of it, it would be sufficient to raise his strength by a few stars.

Upon thinking of the superb effect that this thing brought, Xiao Yan's body trembled slightly. He flipped his hand prompting the sharp Purple Spirit Crystal to appear in his palm.

Swallowing his saliva, Xiao Yan stared intently at the purple colored round ball and voiced the uncertainty in his heart, "Do I just smash it

apart?”

“I think so, I’ve never tried it.” Yao Lao’s uncertain voice sounded from within the ring.

“If anything goes wrong, I’ll come after you!” Yao Lao’s uncertain voice immediately caused Xiao Yan to become a little perturbed. However, the situation did not allow him to give more thought. He tightly held the Purple Spirit Crystal and violently knocked it onto the purple colored ball.

“Crack...” The Purple Spirit Crystal knocked against the tip of the round ball. After a brief silence, a crack line surfaced on it. A moment later, the crack line spread and the ball broke into pieces with a bang.

Immediately after the Amethyst Lion Birth Essence broke, a purple colored liquid began to flow out from it, wetting half of the stone table.

“Hurry, hurry. Use the jade bottle to store the purple colored liquid. This is the Amethyst Essence.!” Eyeing the liquid flowing out, Yao Lao hurriedly yelled.

As Yao Lao’s voice died off, Xiao Yan, who had felt a great heartache, quickly took out some jade bottles from within the storage ring and used all his effort to pour the purple liquid into them.

Although the Amethyst Lion Birth Essence outer shell was extremely hot, the liquid in it was abnormally warm.

Despite the outer shell’s large size, the amount of this warm purple liquid it contained only allowed Xiao Yan to fill up six jade bottles.

After dropping the last drop of the Amethyst Essence into the bottle, Xiao Yan glanced at the liquid that was spilled over the stone table. His mouth shivered at the heartache he felt. He stared at it for a moment before he suddenly pounced onto the stone table and licked up all the Amethyst Essence in the small depressions on the table under Yao Lao’s shocked expression.

“Dammit... You’re really stubborn!”

Looking at Xiao Yan’s manner, the speechless Yao Lao mimicked Xiao

Yan's language as a curse exploded from his mouth.

Chapter 141: Time of life and death

A few mouthfuls caused the Amethyst Essence on the stone table to be licked cleanly off, Xiao Yan casually wiped off the dirt on the edge of his mouth. Turning his back, looking at Yao Lao's stunned figure, he disdainfully snorted, "Wastage is really shameful!"

"Indeed.....really shameful." Speechlessly nodding his head, Yao Lao dumbfoundedly shook his head then urged, "Go, quickly retreat! If not that little thing will return."

"Mh." Hearing Yao Lao's reminder, Xiao Yan nodded his head quickly, his eyes once again reluctantly sweeping across the remnants of purple stains on the stone table and then turned over to rush out toward the entrance.

The wind attribute Dou Qi that Yun Zhi left in his body was fully activated at this moment. Xiao Yan's speed was faster than he had ever been at before and when his legs moved, they even created blurry feeling.

After Xiao Yan sprang through the passage, he rushed toward the entrance of the cave without any hesitation.

However not long after exiting the passage, a furious roar came from his front. Right afterwards, the small savage Amethyst Winged Lion appeared within Xiao Yan's vision, glaring at him.

Looking at the Amethyst Winged Lion that suddenly rushed in, Xiao Yan's face slightly changed. The speed which he was running at quickly dropped as his feet skidded across the ground for ten meters or so before steadily stopping. At this moment, the distance between Xiao Yan and the small Amethyst Winged Lion was only tens of meters.

Bitterly looking at the fellow that was almost half the size of the passageway, Xiao Yan groused out, "That diarrhea poison, why didn't it just cause that beast to excrete to its death?"

"I'm sorry, I forgot again. The small Amethyst Winged Lion was born with the Amethyst Lion Birth Essence, so it can grasp the status of the

latter at any time. Since you broke the Amethyst Crystal, I guess that must have alarmed it.” As Xiao Yan was worrying, Yao Lao’s apologetic voice that really deserved a thrashing, drifted out from the ring.

His mouth intensely twitching, Xiao Yan took a deep breath. As there was no time to bother with Yao Lao, Xiao Yan raised his head, edgily looking at this beast which was similar to a giant tyrant in his eyes.

A light purple color started to appear in the beastly eyes that were glowering at Xiao Yan. The layer of purple crystals which were thinner than that of its parent, started to glow and emit a purple radiance but luckily as this was still inside the cave and without the sun shining down, the small Amethyst Beast was unable to successfully call out the Purple Flame. Otherwise, Xiao Yan would really not have any chance to escape anymore.

“Houhou!” Stepping forward, the enormous energy in it’s paw caused the entire inner part of the cave to tremble. A few stray rocks that fell from the wall smashed around Xiao Yan’s legs.

Swallowing his saliva, Xiao Yan gripped his Heavy Xuan Ruler, exerted some strength and twirled it in his palms to place it inside his Storage Ring. Facing this rank 3 peak Magic Beast, Xiao Yan didn’t dare hold back any strength. Sometimes, it was that split second that meant the difference between life and death.

After the heavy ruler left his body, Xiao Yan felt lighter and more nimble while the Dou Qi within his body flowed much more naturally. After escaping the restraints, Xiao Yan’s whole body emitted limitless strength.

Lightly hopping, Xiao Yan finally calmed down from his earlier panicked state and began to look for a chance to escape.

The sharp claws lightly scraped across the ground, scratching out numerous small cracks on the hard ground. The small Amethyst Winged Lion stepped forward once again, its huge tail smashing on the ground fiercely. A giant rock was smashed into pieces and relying on the strength of the tail, the small Amethyst Winged Lion sprang forward for tens of meters, pouncing toward Xiao Yan furiously.

The huge figure left an oppressive shadow on the ground. Raising his head and looking at that mountain-like beast, Xiao Yan's knees bent slightly, raising his palms and toward the roof of the passage, a fierce suction force surged out. His body flew straight upwards and like a lizard, he stuck to the rock wall.

Looking at the small Amethyst Winged Lion that just missed, Xiao Yan tightly grabbed the rock wall while keeping up his suction force. This resulted in his body hanging on the rock wall but that didn't stop him as him madly climbed toward the exit of the cave.

After climbing a short distance, the small Amethyst Winged Lion turned its head and stared at the crawling Xiao Yan. Its giant mouth opened while its head shifted backwards and a moment later, purple flames shot toward Xiao Yan.

"Dammit!" Feeling the heat from the purple flames, Xiao Yan's palms loosened and his body flipped and dropped toward the ground. His toes sprang from the stone wall and like an arrow that just left the bow, he crazily flew toward the exit of the cave.

Seeing the thief of its Amethyst Lion Birth Essence running away, the small Amethyst Winged Lion let out an angered roar. Its wings shook fiercely, extending inside the cave. Its paws sprang off the ground and its body floated forward as it started to chase the figure that was running ahead.

Inside the mountain cave, a man and a beast, one escaping, one chasing, it was the intense time of life and death.

Springing out a short distance again, a force shot from behind Xiao Yan causing him to urgently turn his body. A giant rock flew above his head, smashing against the rock wall heavily. It shattered, but a few cracks also appeared on the rock wall.

Looking at the strength that came from the rock, Xiao Yan took in a cold breath while his footsteps became more urgent.

But however fast Xiao Yan's speed was, he was still unable to compete with the flight of the small Amethyst Winged Lion and after this chase

continued for a few minutes, Xiao Yan finally began to feel the killing intent behind him get stronger. Obviously, the small lion had gradually shortened the distance.

Being forced into such a dangerous situation, on Xiao Yan's palm was a continuous stream of jade bottle being taken out from the ring and without caring about what they were, they were desperately thrown backwards.

"Pingpingping....." The smashing of the jade bottles cause a colorful cloud of powder to appear in the passage. However, this had little effect in obstructing the small Amethyst Winged Lion.

After running for another stretch of distance again, Xiao Yan strangely found that his body was getting hotter and hotter. Waves of heat were emitted from his Qi Paths, each strand endlessly integrating with his blood, bones and flesh.

"What's going on?" The sudden change inside Xiao Yan's body caused his heart to freeze for a moment. However, the current situation didn't allow him to stop and contemplate. The pure energy brought about by the heat inside his body caused Xiao Yan's speed to explode and at the same time, allowed him to temporarily escape the lion's mouth.

"Oh yeah, is this the Amethyst Essence I just swallowed?" While running, Xiao Yan suddenly wondered.

"Such rich energy....." Sighing in amazement, Xiao Yan's face changed abruptly. The heat waves that were inside his body emerged more and more as he ran. At first, Xiao Yan was able to rely on his body to absorb the energy but as his body reached its limit, the heat waves inside his body still continued to increase. Finally, a purple color started to faintly appear on Xiao Yan's skin.

"Dammit, it was just a few mouthfuls, need there be so much energy? No place to put it somewhere else?" Xiao Yan scolded. His body was starting to get scaldingly hot, giving rise to a little fear in Xiao Yan's heart.

"Ah!" The clothes on Xiao Yan's body started to become really dry while red and purple colors flashed over his face. Opening his mouth and

panting out hot air repeatedly, Xiao Yan looked like he was in hell.

“Hou!” Chasing at Xiao Yan’s back, as the small Amethyst Winged Lion saw the purple energy that was smoking off Xiao Yan’s body, the fury and rage in its beastly eyes increased tremendously. This had originally belonged to him, yet was now stolen by this stupid human.

Thinking about this, the small Amethyst Winged Lion let out a ferocious roar. Its paws fiercely stepped on the ground as the purple essence on its wings skyrocketed in amount, causing the beast’s speed to explode. Its huge head charged toward Xiao Yan’s back and looking at this situation, if it were to connect, it would be hard for Xiao Yan to escape the fate of his body exploding.

The insane force heading towards his back was detected by Xiao Yan. The red-purple faced him suddenly turned around and on both palms, purple Qi, faded yellow Dou Qi and green colored Dou Qi emerged at the same time.

Three kinds of energy gathered on Xiao Yan’s arm and were all barraged at the small Amethyst Winged Lion.

“Bang!” A huge roar rang through the cave passage, shaking a few stray rocks.

“Puchi!” The enormous energy from the arm caused Xiao Yan’s body to fly out instantly. A mouth of fresh blood was also spat out, wetting his clothes.

Although Xiao Yan was quite pitiful, due to the explosion from several of his energies, the savage small Amethyst Winged Lion was blasted midair and spinned several rounds, before heavily landing on the rock wall. Lines of cracks started to spread out behind its back.

Urgently retreating, Xiao Yan, with the aid of the rock pillar, finally stopped. However, before he could wipe the blood off his lips, he saw the savage small Amethyst Winged Lion that once again pounced forward and he turned around to start to flee.

Ignoring the constant roars behind him, the purple heat waves inside

Xiao Yan's body started to abate a little, following the release earlier. Borrowing the massive energy from this strange thing, Xiao Yan desperately fled toward the cave mouth that he could finally see.

"Hou!" Behind his back, a heat wave neared, causing the clothes on Xiao Yan's back to burn to ashes. A constant stream of flames also left a wound on Xiao Yan's back.

Biting his teeth and bearing through the pain, Xiao Yan desperately ran with reddened eyes. At this moment, stopping for a moment meant death!

The white light from the entrance started to become brighter and brighter; Xiao Yan was even able to hear the roars of the beasts from outside. His feet once again stepping down, his body flew out. A final fierce step on the rock wall caused his body to fly out from the cave.

Rushing out from the cave, the strong sunlight caused Xiao Yan's eyes to sting. As he forced his body to turn mid air, his face was filled with sudden realization. While he was about to reach the ground, the two rank 3 Magic Beasts that were guarding the outer perimeters of the cave were exposing their savage huge mouths toward him.

Staring at the extremely close stenchful huge mouth, Xiao Yan despaired. With his whole body being weak, he was unable to muster up any strength to turn the tables anymore.

As he closed his eyes and waited for death, two bitterly cold sword Qis furiously shot down from the skies, slicing apart the two fierce Magic Beasts. As Xiao Yan's eyes opened once more, his body fell amidst a soft and fragrant place.

Blurily opening his eyes, all Xiao Yan saw was an anxious beautiful face.

Chapter 142: Absorbing the Purple Energy

Observing the miserably burnt body of Xiao Yan who she was holding to her chest, Yun Zhi's pretty face changed. At the same time, the young Amethyst Winged Lion roared angrily and came dashing from the inner regions of the cave. However, when its gaze swept toward Yun Zhi, who was floating in midair, it hurriedly slammed its claw on the ground and slid for a short distance. The Magic Beast's excellent sense of danger told him that the woman in front of it was not an existence it could offend.

Just as the young Amethyst Winged Lion was preparing to retreat, the icy-faced Yun Zhi swung the sword in her hand. An enormous green colored wind blade exploded from the tip of the sword and cut at the former's body with lightning speed. Instantly, sparks spattered in all directions.

"Wu!" Having received a heavy blow, the young Amethyst Winged Lion let out a shrill scream from its huge mouth. Yun Zhi's attack had cleaved a disturbing crack on the layer of Amethyst protecting its back.

"Dammit, how dare you hurt my son. I will not let you off today!" At the moment when Yun Zhi attacked, an intense purple flame was thrown from the sky. The explosive and furious roar of the Amethyst Winged Lion reverberated throughout the sky.

"Hmm." Yun Zhi coldly snorted and rotated her hand in front of her body. A violent green colored tornado suddenly appeared on the surface of her body. It spun fiercely, throwing aside the overwhelming purple flame that came charging at her.

The green wings behind Yun Zhi flapped as she hurriedly retreated while carrying the unconscious Xiao Yan with one hand. As she retreated, the strange longsword in her hand danced at an unusual angle. In a moment, the longsword suddenly trembled and a cold cry was emitted from moist red small lips, "Wind's Peak , Killer Meteorite."

Hearing Yun Zhi's delicate cry, the Amethyst Winged Lion immediately let out a serious roar. Its body abruptly shot downwards and appeared in

front of the young Amethyst Winged Lion in the blink of an eye. Its huge head shook, once again spreading a purple light all over the skyline.

When the Amethyst Winged Lion prepared to use its greatest attack to receive Yun Zhi's attack, which had successfully smashed its horn before, Yun Zhi simply flapped her wings and quickly stored the longsword in her hand into her storage ring. She then turned around and made a few flashing leaps and disappeared into the horizon with Xiao Yan.

"Cunning human! I, the Amethyst Winged Lion, will never give up getting my revenge on you!" Seeing Yun Zhi suddenly escaping, the Amethyst Winged Lion finally realized that it was tricked. The purple light on its body slowly weakened while its angry roar continued to echo in the mountain range for a long time.

Ignoring the faint roar that vibrated through the air, Yun Zhi held Xiao Yan and continued to fly toward the exit of the Magic Beast Mountain Range like a comet. A while later, they exited the inner regions of the Magic Beast Mountain Range. Only then did she find a covert place to slowly descend.

After landing in a hidden area in the dense woods, Yun Zhi hurriedly removed Xiao Yan from her chest and placed him onto the ground. Her hand touched his body and she involuntarily uttered in a shocked voice, "Such an overwhelming energy. What exactly did this guy do?"

Lying on the cool ground, Xiao Yan's entire body had turned black. He continued to pull at his clothes unconsciously. When he opened his mouth, he even released steam.

Seeing Xiao Yan who had shrunk his body together in pain, anxiety surfaced in Yun Zhi's heart. She thought for a moment, clenched her teeth and suddenly appeared behind Xiao Yan's back. She extended her hand and lightly pressed it onto the stove-like back of Xiao Yan.

Yun Zhi's moist, small red lips slowly released a breath as she gradually closed her pretty eyes. The ocean-like surging Dou Qi in her abruptly flowed along her hand and hurriedly poured into Xiao Yan's body.

Yun Zhi's Dou Qi was naturally not something that the Dou Zhe Dou Qi

in Xiao Yan could compare with. Under her control, the wind type Dou Qi that entered Xiao Yan's body swiftly occupied all his Qi Paths. The pale yellow Dou Qi belonging to Xiao Yan was chased back into the vortex in his lower abdomen.

After she properly arranged the Dou Qi that originated from Xiao Yan, Yun Zhi turned her attention toward the purple colored energy that was seeping from around the internal body of Xiao Yan.

Faced with this kind of unknown, but overwhelming, energy, the powerful wind type Dou Qi was no longer so nice. Within the Qi Paths, the numerous threads of purple-colored energy continued to be banished by the wind-type energy.

Although the purple colored energy was very strong, it was helpless against the army of seemingly never ending wind-type Dou Qi. At that moment, it had become like a stray dog that continued to try to escape.

As it fled, there was some purple-colored energy that continuously mixed with Xiao Yan's blood, flesh, and bones. Each time the purple-colored energy mixed with his blood and flesh, a pale purple spot would appear on that spot. Soon, Xiao Yan was full of these purple markings. Having no space left, the remaining purple-colored energy could only coalesce together to form a fist-sized purple-colored energy that shivered as it watched the wind-type Dou Qi surrounding it.

"Terrible little thing, it's over..." Outside of the body, Yun Zhi, with her eyes tightly shut, suddenly said.

Following Yun Zhi's words, the wind-type Dou Qi that surrounded the purple-colored energy suddenly pounced onto the latter.

Appearing to have felt the danger, this group of purple-colored energy suddenly vibrated violently. On its surface, a purple-colored flame began to rise, burning off some of the wind-type energy that was charging at it.

"It is indeed a little strange." The transformation of the purple-colored energy did not cause Yun Zhi to be overly shocked. After a light sigh, the wind-type Dou Qi that was poured into Xiao Yan's body suddenly turned into a green-colored storm. The storm spun at high speed and a moment

later, pulled the group of purple colored flames into it. Instantly, the green colored storm became a whirlwind that alternated between green and purple colors.

The storm continued to spin at high speed as Yun Zhi controlled its strength and continued to remove the wildness in the purple-colored energy.

After being removed, the seed of wildness would be thrown out by the storm and swarmed by the army of wind-type Dou Qi outside that destroyed it almost instantly.

As the storm spun increasingly fast, the purple color within the green and purple mixture began to fade until it posed no threat. Suddenly, the storm ceased spinning and gradually disappeared.

After the storm disappeared, a pale, purple flame appeared in Xiao Yan's body.

The purple colored flame this time around was visibly calmer than before. Its wild attacking characteristic was also slightly diminished. The thing that it was now was possibly a pure energy that people could absorb and refine.

Yun Zhi lightly sighed as she eyed the pale, purple flame. Her finger flicked on Xiao Yan's back, blowing a shapeless ferocious wind through Xiao Yan's body. Instantly, the pale, purple flame was blown toward the slow spinning vortex in Xiao Yan's lower abdomen.

Under Yun Zhi's gaze, the pale, purple flame quickly passed through a few Qi Paths before being shot into the interior of the vortex.

Almost immediately after the pale, purple flame entered the vortex, it prompted a huge movement. Not only did the spinning speed of the vortex suddenly become much faster, it also quickly expanded from its original size of around two palms.

Within the pale yellow vortex, a group of pale, purple flames continued to spin along with the former. When it spun, numerous threads of purple colored flames were split from it and changed into the most basic form of

energy which was assimilated into the vortex.

The vortex continued to expand until it reached the size of a basketball and this size was the result of Yun Zhi suppressing from the outside. If she had not suppressed it, the vortex would likely continue to expand. It may be true that the size of the vortex represents the growth of one's strength but the experienced Yun Zhi knew that if Xiao Yan was allowed to jump too many levels without any effort, it would be detrimental in the long-term.

Seeing that the vortex had ceased expanding, Yun Zhi, who had completed her task, began to withdraw the Dou Qi she had poured into Xiao Yan. Numerous threads of fire-type Dou Qi that were stronger than before began to flow from the vortex in Xiao Yan following the withdrawal of her Dou Qi. Finally, they began to orderly flow through all of Xiao Yan's Qi Paths again.

With the removal of the energy causing trouble in his body, the outside appearance of Xiao Yan's body also began to return to its normal color. His originally pained-filled face had also gradually calmed down while the curled up body of his also became relaxed and spread out.

Pulling Xiao Yan's body with her hands, Yun Zhi gently placed him onto the grass-covered ground. She wiped off her perspiration and sat down beside him, taking a few gasps of air. She then tilted her head and watched the young man's sleeping face. A long while later, she sighed again and shook her head. Reaching her hand out, she removed Xiao Yan's storage ring and took out the Purple Spirit Crystal.

Gently holding the warm Purple Spirit Crystal, Yun Zhi whispered, "Thank you."

Yun Zhi stood up with her teeth biting her red lips. Her gaze swept across her surroundings before she began to slowly remove her simple dress. A bright red color appeared on her face as she did so. Following a pull from her finger, an alluring body that appeared to have been carved out of a beautiful jade was revealed in the dense forest.

After elegantly taking off her clothes, Yun Zhi gently removed the blue-

colored metal inner vest that had a strange light flowing on it. Once she did so, she hurriedly put on her clothes while wearing a shy expression.

Carrying the metal inner vest with both hands, Yun Zhi carefully folded it and placed it beside the sleeping Xiao Yan. In a soft voice, she muttered, "This Sea's Core Vest was created from the strange metal created in the stomach of a Three Tailed Blue Whale, a rank six Sea Magic Beast. Its defensive strength is determined by its owner's strength. Although your strength is only that of a Dou Zhe, even a Dou Shi's attack cannot easily hurt you... You have helped me a couple of times, so consider this your reward."

After properly placing the vest, Yun Zhi tilted her head and mused for a moment. She then took out two scrolls from her storage ring, placed them on the vest and said softly: "This is a scroll containing a High Xuan fire-attribute Qi Method and a Middle Xuan level Dou Technique. I hope that these will help you in the future."

Once she securely placed the things, Yun Zhi stood beside Xiao Yan. Her pretty eyes felt an unknown feeling. She stared at the delicate and handsome young man's face and a helpless bitter smile suddenly surfaced on her pretty face. "After training alone for so many years, I did not expect to... this young man..."

"Uh, we will meet again if we are destined to, little boy..." Sighing gently, Yun Zhi lowered her body and lightly pecked her lips on Xiao Yan's forehead. The green wings behind her flapped and she gracefully swept into the sky.

On the grass surface, a faint fragrance remained but the beauty had already left...

Chapter 143: Nine Star Dou Zhe

When Xiao Yan emerged from his unconscious state, it was already sunset. Slowly opening his eyes and lightly moving his fingers, the expected pain didn't appear. In fact, there was an energized feeling within his body.

This comfortably enriched feeling caused Xiao Yan to breath out deeply. Slightly moving his head, a tidy pile of blue colored metal inner vest and two scrolls appeared before his eyes.

Looking at these items, Xiao Yan was at first confused. Soon after, he sat up in a flash of understanding. His eyes furiously roved around his surroundings but he was unable to find that graceful and elegant figure. A sense of loneliness and depression started to appear on the youth's face

"Gone already?" Bitterly laughing, Xiao Yan weakly liad on the branch beside him. After narrowing his eyes for quite some time, he lazily reached out to take the metal inner vest that was arranged neatly. Holding it with his palm, the inner vest strangely held some warmth and was not cool. Xiao Yan's hands lightly kneaded the inner vest and found that it was soft as silk, extremely weird.

Grabbing that blue inner vest tightly, Xiao Yan placed it below his nostrils and sniffed, smelling a light body fragrance.

"She actually left this kind of close fitting object behind....." With an odd expression on his face, Xiao Yan muttered. Moving apart the metal inner vest, the claw mark left by the Amethyst Winged Lion appeared within his vision.

Pulling the metal inner vest into his embrace, Xiao Yan raised his head and looked at the sparse treetop, the smile on his mouth was a little bitter, "Ai, she went back and continued to be her respected Dou Huang.....I also have to continue struggling for my Dou Shi."

Forcefully shaking his head, Xiao Yan settled the two scrolls into the ring depressedly. Lowering his head and looking at the back finger on his ring, he asked, "Teacher, where are we going now?"

The ring lightly trembled, Yao Lao floated out, circled around Xiao Yan and suddenly spoke, "Go look at your current strength."

Hearing this, Xiao Yan was confused and following his advice, he closed both eyes and quickly reflected on the state of his body. A moment after, he opened his eyes. spoke in consternation, "Nine Star Dou Zhe? How did I jump two stars? Is..is it due to that Amethyst Essence?"

"Only two stars? At least that woman wasn't an idiot, if she were to help you break through to Dou Shi, there would be a huge problem." Yao Lao emotionlessly said.

"What does that mean?" Xiao Yan asked in confusion.

"The energy within the Amethyst Essence is indeed rich. However that strength was too tyrannical. Although that woman already refined it once, if you were to let the purple flame raise your current strength, the Qi vortex inside your body would just expand and explode. The Amethyst Winged Lion being able to raise an entire rank after eating it is due to their physical body being really strong, thus they have no reason to be scared of being devoured by the purple flames. But you, heh heh, if you were to rely on the purple flames to promote to the Dou Shi level, I'm afraid you would have been instantly incinerated into a pile of ashes by the purple flames." Yao Lao said with a laugh.

"Kuh..." Wiping away cold sweat, Xiao Yan finally understood that even good things cannot be randomly consumed. No matter how good it was, if the human body was unable to withstand it, it would only become poison.

"Although currently, under the help of her pressure, you only raised two stars, this speed still leaves me a little worried. Ai, this woman, sure can mess things up. This leaping kind of training has a lot of shortcomings." Shaking his head, Yao Lao mused, speaking again, "Within this month, you have to camp inside the Magic Beast mountain and every day you have to hunt down five or more rank 1 Magic Beasts. Only through battle can the Dou Qi within your body become as steady and firm as before. If not, when we encounter a Heavenly Flame in the future, you will not have any qualifications to devour it."

“If it must be five, let it be five.” Unconcernedly shaking his head, Xiao Yan stood up, carrying the heavy ruler while Yao Lao returned to the ring. Sweeping around the surroundings once again, he finally left this dense forest.

Walking out from the forest, a flaming red setting sun on the horizon had already descended halfway. Standing still and gazing at the setting sun for a long time, Xiao Yan sighed in loneliness, turned around and disappeared under the cover of the forest.

When Xiao Yan left, he did not realise that on the peak of an undetectable hidden mountain behind him, there was a girl in a simple white dress, standing beautifully on it and letting out a soft sigh of relief after seeing Xiao Yan safely leave the dense forest. Once again watching the youthful figure disappear, she sighed faintly. Finally without reluctance and lingering attachment, the green wings on her back lightly flapped as her figure transformed into a green shadow that speedily flew out from the Magic Beast Mountain Range.

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Within the dark forest, a Rank 1 Vampire Rat was carefully crawling, its tiny blood red eyes were continuously regarding the forest with vigilance; a bitter cold light shone on its sharp teeth and claws.

It quickly crawled a short distance and as the blood rat was greedily grazing on the sap of the tree, a white blur suddenly surged out from the white tree. A strand of ice energy shot outwards, briefly freezing the feet of the blood rat that just realized his situation and was about to escape. A pair of sharp fangs closed and swallowed the blood rat in a flash.

Successfully completing an ambush once again, the white furred Unicorn Wolf groomed its white fur in satisfaction. This white wolf was named as the Frost Unicorn Wolf and its strength was at the peak of rank 1 Magic Beasts so defeating one blood rat was relatively easy.

After completely swallowing the blood rat, the Frost Unicorn Wolf once again searched for a new target.

“Bang!” Following a muffled noise, leaves around the Frost Wolf

suddenly shot skywards and rained down onto the wolf.

This sudden change caused the Frost Unicorn Wolf to retreat in panic but as its body moved backwards, a human figure surged outwards from within the leaves and the branches. A punch that held a savage and enormous force, severely smashed toward the wolf's brain.

This savage force caused the fur on the Frost Unicorn Wolf to stand on end. In its horrifying fanged mouth, there was a howl followed by a white Ice energy being shot out madly.

That white energy encapsulated the human figure for a brief moment. However, this time, the Ice energy didn't achieve its desired effect. On that human figure, a faded yellow with streaks of purple Dou Qi appeared on the body and under this intensely hot fire natured Dou Qi, the ice energy was unable to freeze the human figure and became a cloud of white steam, scattering quickly.

Seeing that Ice energy had no effect, the Frost Unicorn Wolf quickly turned and fled for its life.

The human figure rushed out from the Ice Energy and looking at the desperately escaping Frost Unicorn Wolf. His feet suddenly strangely twisted before stepping on the ground again while he softly shouted from his mouth, "Exploding Steps!"

Accompanying that shout, a pale, yellow glow actually emerged from that human figure's feet and with the lightly glowing yellow feet, he heavily stepped on the ground. At that moment, an explosion like noise sounded from where the feet had been in contact with the ground. At the same time, that figure charged outwards with an insane speed like that of an arrow that left the bow, a little unbelievable.

Following that step, the figure took another few steps and every time his feet landed, there would be an explosion like sound.

Eight noises sounded out, eight steps! With just those eight steps, the

figure actually surpassed the Frost Unicorn Wolf which was known for its speed.

Leaping over the Frost Unicorn Wolf, that figure spun his body and savagely punched the wolf's head. At that moment, the Frost Unicorn Wolf's speed stalled and with a muffled noise, the tough wolf head exploded and shot out in all directions.

Using only one punch to neutralize the Frost Unicorn Wolf, the figure raised his head, exposing the clear and handsome look of a youth. It was Xiao Yan who was training in the mountain range.

Today's Xiao Yan, compared to a month ago, had an additional tough feel to him and there was a bloody feeling permeating his body. Obviously, having to hunt five or more Magic Beasts everyday made Xiao Yan anew. After going through a bloodbath, anyone would also have some sort of change.

After a month of hunting and training, the Dou Qi inside Xiao Yan's body that left Yao Lao a little worried finally steadied and calmed down. The threads of energy that came from the Amethyst Essence was refined by Xiao Yan multiple times into the Qi vortex of his lower abdomen and only after shrinking by nearly half, did the refining finally stopped.

Although the Qi vortex looked like it shrunk, Xiao Yan clearly understood that the current him far outstripped himself from a month ago.

During this month, Xiao Yan trained the Middle Xuan Ranked Dou Technique that Yun Zhi left behind in one of the scroll, and this skill was the Exploding Steps that Xiao Yan just utilized.

As the name suggests, this was a type of Dou Technique that relied on the momentum from exploding energy to increase velocity and to this thing, Xiao Yan was quite interested, and thus learnt it. However, with Xiao Yan's current strength, he was at most able to utilize ten steps of Exploding Steps, anymore would be impossible. But even so, Exploding Steps had a huge contribution to Xiao Yan's hunting mission in this month.

Yun Zhi left two scrolls, one was a Qi Method and the other was a Dou Technique but Xiao Yan only learned the Dou Technique, Exploding Steps. The other Qi Method was useless for Xiao Yan who had learned the Flame Mantra and so, Xiao Yan could only leave it coldly unattended within the ring.

Overall, this month of training multiplied Xiao Yan's total ability and without any restraints or restrictions, defeating a Two Star Dou Shi was not impossible!

After the end of the month, Xiao Yan stayed inside the Magic Beast Mountain Range for a few days and under perfect conditions, killed a rank 2 Magic Beast, using that to measure the fruits of his training!

After gauging his current ability, Xiao Yan's mind wandered to the strict face of a middle aged man.

It was that person that forced him to enter the depths of the Magic Beast Mountain Range a few months earlier.

And now, was perhaps the best time to get revenge.....

Chapter 144: Gan Mu

Slowly walking within the dense forest, Xiao Yan's eyes glanced at the gradually thinning woods and sighed in relief. He was presently at the outer edges of the Magic Beast Mountain Range. If he continued walking for some distance, he should be able to meet some Mercenary Companies that had entered the mountain range to hunt for Magic Beasts.

Lifting his head, Xiao Yan watched the slightly dark sky and involuntarily frowned. It looks like he would have to spend the night in the mountain range once again.

Shaking his head, Xiao Yan patted the Heavy Xuan Ruler on his back; it had been completely wrapped with a black cloth. His strange looking Heavy Black Ruler had become a unique sign, causing Xiao Yan to have little choice but to think of ways to hide it in order to avoid some unnecessary trouble.

After Xiao Yan passed through another small forest, the sky had finally become totally dark. He shook his head helplessly as he prepared to search for a spot to rest. His moving gaze abruptly paused as he noticed a bonfire slowly ascending in the forest a short distance away, much like a lamp that led the way in the darkness.

"Eh, there's actually someone?" Xiao Yan stared blankly at the bonfire. After some thought, he lifted his legs and headed for the spot where the bonfire was.

As he went nearer, Xiao Yan could vaguely see that five people were seated beside the bonfire. There were three males and two females, each carrying their own weapon. On their chest was the same badge; it appeared that they were mercenaries belonging to the same company.

When Xiao Yan was slowly approaching, a middle aged man beside the fire suddenly turned around. His eyes shot toward the place Xiao Yan was at and coldly barked, "Who is it?"

Hearing his shout, three of the people by his side pulled their weapons out from their waist with a clang while a girl among them that was much

younger pulled twice before she managed to draw her sword. Her face instantly became bright red with humiliation.

“Please don’t panic. I’m just a passerby who saw the bonfire and walked over.” A young man with a smile appeared from behind a dark and cold tree. In order to prove that he had no ill intentions, he purposefully waved his empty hands.

Seeing Xiao Yan’s young face, the five people clearly relaxed. The middle aged man was about to smile and speak when a spoiled crisp young lady’s voice was vocalized from the mouth of the young lady who had difficulty drawing her sword just a moment ago. It seemed that she wanted to vent her anger from her embarrassment onto Xiao Yan. “Do you not know any manners? To quietly enter the domain of another mercenary company; are you trying to eavesdrop on our conversation?”

Being falsely accused without any reason, Xiao Yan knit his eyebrows together and turned his gaze onto the girl. From her appearance, she appeared to be younger than Xiao Yan by about a year. Her face, reddened from the firelight, was considered pretty but her expression was spoiled and unreasonable. Even the tone she used was also not very likable.

“Ling Er, don’t say such nonsense.” Noticing Xiao Yan’s expression, the middle aged man turned his head and reprimanded before facing Xiao Yan once more and smiled, “Brother, are you also a mercenary? Why did you come into the Magic Beast Mountain Range alone?”

“Haha. I’m a physician. I’ve come alone in search of medicinal ingredients that have been used up. Unexpectedly, I ended up spending such a long time.” Xiao Yan took out some medicinal herbs from his breast pocket and smiled at this middle aged man who had his guard up.

“Oh.” The middle aged man felt a little relief after listening to Xiao Yan’s explanation and carefully observing the medicinal herbs in the latter’s hand. He pointed to the bonfire beside him and said unrestrainedly, “Why don’t you come over and sit. The night is when the Magic Beasts are most active. It is a little dangerous to be out alone.”

Gratefully nodding his head, Xiao Yan walked toward the side of the fire

under the gaze of the few people. He sat down and smiled shyly at them.

“Brother, I am called Ka Gang. As you can see here, ha ha, five star Dou Zhe.” The middle aged man pointed to the five stars below his mercenary badge and laughed.

“Yao Yan. I am a physician and my strength can be considered a two star Dou Zhe.” Xiao Yan blinked his eyes and smiled.

“You have quite a lot of courage. Just a mere two star and you actually dare to venture into the Magic Beast Mountain Range. If you had not met us tonight, I’m afraid that you would have become food in the Magic Beasts stomach.” Upon hearing Xiao Yan’s strength, the young girl known as Ling Er immediately laughed with disdain.

Xiao Yan smiled faintly. Based on his character, he naturally ignored her and threw his gaze onto the other woman and two men. With a smile, he said, “Yao Yan, two star Dou Zhe.”

“Qing Xin, four star Dou Zhe.” The woman wearing a green dress politely smiled at Xiao Yan.

“Mo Shi, four star Dou Zhe. Ha ha, Brother, you can call me Lion.” A man with a somewhat strong body gave Xiao Yan an honest smile.

TL: Shi -> part of Shi Zi which means Lion

Xiao Yan smiled at the last man and glanced at the young girl who was extremely pleased with herself. Suddenly, he realized that she seemed to worship this prince charming. Within that worship, there was also the crush of a young girl. This was only expected. What girls like her love the most were knights in shining armor who had both strength and looks, much like Mu Lan.

After a brief introduction between the parties, they began to loosen themselves. During the conversation, the middle aged man known as Ka Gang asked Xiao Yan a few questions that were related to a physician in a natural manner. When Xiao Yan answered them perfectly, the last shred of doubt in Ka Gang was removed and the few of them began to chat.

In the midst of their chat, Xiao Yan was surprised to find that these

people were members of one of the three big mercenary company, the Bloody Battle Mercenary Troop. It was also said that the young girl called Ling Er was the daughter of one of the upper echelons of the mercenary company. No wonder she was spoiled and unreasonable. With the strength of the Bloody Battle Mercenary Company, she could really do as she pleased.

After becoming familiar with each other, Xiao Yan did not forget about the reason he had come over. Occasionally, he would carelessly pose a few questions on news of the Wolf Head Mercenary Company and the current situation in Qingshan Town.

Regarding the questions which answers were no secret, Ka Gang did not hold anything back. He smiled as he spoke about the current situation of the Wolf Head Mercenary Company and some of their actions.

After hearing the news from Ka Gang's mouth, Xiao Yan finally let out a relaxed sigh. Luckily, his prediction of the three mercenary companies working together to catch him did not happen. With his strength now, a mere Wolf Head Mercenary Company was not something to be afraid of.

Xiao Yan had initially wanted to leave after obtaining the information that he needed but could not resist the enthusiastic invitation from Ka Gang. He ended up going along with the latter's intention and spent the night resting at the campsite. Of course, during the time he rested, the girl who was embarrassed because of her mistake repeatedly dug at him. Xiao Yan was, however, too lazy to bother about her. He entered the tent, laid his head down and slept, angering the young girl into stomping her legs.

The night peacefully passed.

Xiao Yan comfortably exited the camp as the sky slowly became bright. He saw Ka Gang and the others packing up and quickly stepped forward with a smile, intending to help.

"Oh, have you finally woken up? We toiled through the night keeping watch, but you... simply slept till now. What a young master." Before he walked over, the young girl's cold voice sounded in the early morning air.

Without even glancing at the young lady with her hand on her waist,

Xiao Yan simply went forward to help Ka Gang pack the tent. If he had not scattered the feces of high rank Magic Beasts around the tent, did she really think that the last night would pass so peacefully?

The young girl's eyebrows raised when she saw Xiao Yan ignore her. If Mu Lan had not held her back, she would have insulted him again.

After packing up the tent, Xiao Yan followed the others for a short distance as they were headed in the same direction. Xiao Yan looked at the large road a short distance away and involuntarily smiled. Back then, he had started fleeing for his life from around there.

Xiao Yan shook his head while smiling. He faced Ka Gang and cupped his hands together and said, "Uncle Ka Gang, we shall part ways here. Thanks you for the care you have given me during the journey."

TL: cupped one's hands together – a form of greeting the chinese use

"Yao Yan, aren't you also going to Qingshan Town? We are also headed the same way." Seeing that Xiao Yan had the intention of leaving, a stunned Ka Gang asked.

Xiao Yan smiled and shook his head. Although he could choose to ignore the spoilt brat called Ling Er, her mocking voice caused him to feel irritated. He was not masochistic so he decided that it was better for him to travel alone.

"Hehe, I suddenly remembered that I still have some things to do. I'm afraid that I will have to stop here for half a day. You should all go ahead."

"Let's go, Let's go. Uncle Ka Gang, what is the fun of bringing that baggage along? Two stars, huh. He can't even be compared with me." The spoiled brat quickly stopped Ka Gang just as the latter was about to open his mouth and speak.

Shaking his head helplessly, Ka Gang could only smile apologetically at Xiao Yan and turned around. When he did so, he stilled and said with a frown, "How unlucky. We actually ended up meeting this irritating guy."

Upon hearing these words, Xiao Yan, who was about to leave, could not help but turn his gaze toward the main road. A group of seven or eight

men riding single horned horses came galloping over. Along the way, everyone else hurriedly dodged aside, afraid of being accidentally hurt.

“Who is he?” Eyeing the leader, a tall skinny man riding a single horned horse, Xiao Yan curiously asked.

“The Second Company Leader of the Wolf Head Mercenary Company, Gan Mu.” Ka Gang bitterly laughed, “This guy always rubs us the wrong way. Nothing good happens each time we meet him. Moreover, this guy is a nine star Dou Zhe, we can’t beat him.”

“The Second Company Leader of the Wolf Head Mercenary Company?” Hearing this, Xiao Yan was momentarily frozen. An instant later, a smile surfaced on his face.

“This guy again. Uncle Ka Gang, let’s leave quickly. hurry!” Seeing that guy on the horse galloping over, the face of the spoiled young girl whitened as she said with a panicked voice.

Watching her panicked face, Xiao Yan gently shook his head. Certainly, an evil person would be tortured by another evil person.

During the time that the few people conversed, the tall skinny man had already ridden over. He swept his gaze down onto Ka Gang and the others and grinned, “Hey, isn’t this Ka Gang of the Bloody Battle Mercenary Company? Well, did you manage to get anything from entering the Magic Beast Mountain Range this time around?” Ka Gang pressed his eyebrows tightly together and ignored him.

The skinny man did not mind when he saw that Ka Gang remained quiet. He turned his gaze toward Ling Er who was trying to hide. He obscenely licked his tongue and smiled brilliantly as he said, “Ling Er is getting more and more charming. I love young girls like you the most. Ha ha, they taste extremely great! You should not be alone in the future, ha ha...”

Hearing the tall skinny man’s lewd laughter, Ling Er’s body trembled. She hurriedly hid behind Ka Gang’s back, not daring to open her mouth to speak.

“Ha ha, I have some urgent matters today so I won’t play with you any longer. Ha ha, the next time we meet, I won’t be so nice.” After harassing the young girl, the tall skinny man laughed loudly and whipped his horse with his horsewhip and left.

Seeing the tall skinny man leaving, Ka Gang and the others sighed in relief.

However, just as the tall skinny man was hurrying off, an explosion sounded on the side of the road. At the same time, a black figure shot toward the Second Company Leader like a bolt of lightning.

The human figure arrived above the horse in a moment. He rotated his body and ruthlessly kicked his right leg on the chin of the tall skinny man. Instantly the body of the latter arched in the air and smashed heavily onto the ground.

“Gurg!” A mouthful of fresh blood was spat out. Before the tall, skinny man had the time to react, a leg stepped onto his chest and the faint laughter of a young man gradually sounded, “Just stay here. It will save me the trouble of having to look for you later.”

Everything happened in a flash and Ka Gang and the others faces were involuntarily filled with shock as they saw Gan Mu suddenly appearing beneath someone’s foot. This was especially so when their gaze followed the foot stepping on Gan Mu’s body and moved upwards. Their stunned gazes became frozen.

Chapter 145: Killing a Nine Star Dou Zhe

The overly arrogant Gan Mu had, in an instant, turned into someone who was randomly stepped on by someone else's foot. This hundred and eighty degree change caused not only Ka Gang and the others to stare in shock but also resulted in the subordinates behind Gan Mu to reveal stunned expressions.

On the spacious road, numerous passersby blankly stared at the Gan Mu who was under Xiao Yan's foot and could not recover their thoughts. In a moment the noisy road had become deadly silent.

A long while later, Ka Gang and his group finally recovered. They eyed Gan Mu who was pressed tightly under Xiao Yan's foot and exchanged glances with each other. Was this the same two star Dou Zhe from before? From the explosive speed and strength that he displayed, this young man's frightening strength would not be weaker than that of Gan Mu's nine star Dou Zhe.

"Uh, it looks like we were all mistaken." Shaking his head, Ka Gang bitterly smiled as he sighed. Looks like that young man was hiding his strength.

Hiding behind Ka Gang's body, Ling Er was also shocked by this sudden change. Her eyes stared at the young man who easily held Gan Mu, whom even her father could not defeat, under his foot. She did not expect that the young man who she repeatedly mocked for an entire day would have such great strength.

Recalling her attitude toward him, a self-mocking smile surfaced on Ling Er's pretty face for the first time. No wonder he pretended to be deaf to her words regardless of how she ridiculed him. Perhaps in his heart, she was like a clown performing her own show.

Sighing in her heart, the young girl watched Gan Mu whose chest was being stepped on by the young man. Under the morning sunlight, the young man's figure appeared very tall and the warm smile on his face suggested that he was not hitting someone but rather having a cordial

conversation with his good friend.

Ling Er stared at the young man before abruptly tilting her head and eying the white-clothed Mu Lan beside her. She suddenly found that the worshipful feeling she had for him in her heart had diminished greatly.

“Cough, cough...” An intense cough accompanied by some blood was spat out from Gan Mu’s mouth. Only then did his mind finally wake from his confused state. With wide eyes, he glared at the young man above him and hissed, “Little Bastard, do you damn well know who I am?”

“The Second Company Leader of the Wolf Head Mercenary Company?” Nodding his head, Xiao Yan answered with a smile, “Sorry but I have come because I know about your identity.”

Gan Mu’s eyes slightly shrunk as he stared intently at this smiling delicate and handsome face. A moment later, a thought struck him. The young man’s face from a few months ago was gradually merging with the that of the person in front of him. Instantly, his aghast voice cried out involuntarily, “You are Xiao Yan? Weren’t you chased into the inner regions of the Magic Beast Mountain Range? Why are you still alive?”

When Gan Mu’s words left his mouth, the surrounding people’s voices exploded into an uproar. Back then, the Wolf Head Mercenary Company used all of their strength to chase the young man called Xiao Yan into the inner regions of the Magic Beast Mountain Range in an attempt to kill him. Unexpectedly, the young man managed to walk out alive from the inner regions of the mountain range, which was also known as a death zone.

“Xiao Yan? He’s actually the Xiao Yan who has caused an upheaval in the Wolf Head Mercenary Company?” On one side, Ka Gang’s face was filled with shock. For him and his group to be able to walk alongside this well known rumored person in the Magic Beast Mountain Range was something entirely unanticipated.

“Kill him!” Having been publicly humiliated, Gan Mu’s face grew increasingly menacing. Upon his explosive order, his subordinates hurriedly took out their weapons while wearing fierce expressions and

charged at Xiao Yan in an attempt to kill him.

At the same time, a pale green Dou Qi quickly rose from Gan Mu's body. His fists slowly transformed into the color of withering wood and with a low cry, smashed toward Xiao Yan's calf.

"Exploding Steps!" Following Xiao Yan's call in his heart, a faint yellow energy swiftly formed on Xiao Yan's feet and he quickly stomped on Gan Mu's chest. Xiao Yan's body then shot toward the few mercenaries who were riding their horses over.

"Grug!" The explosive force from the Exploding Steps released a loud blast on Gan Mu's chest. The surging force directly caused him to spit out another mouthful of fresh blood. Gan Mu shakingly stood up afterwards and pulled a steel rod off of his back. Grinding his teeth in anger, he charged at Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan, who had shot out like the wind, bypassed the defenses of the few guards in an instant. Grabbing the hilt of the Heavy Xuan Ruler with his right hand, Xiao Yan suddenly drew it, releasing it from the confines of the black cloth. The huge ruler's body smashed horizontally outwards, instantly causing the few mercenaries to be simultaneously knocked to the ground and cough up blood.

In approximately the time taken for two to three exchanges, Xiao Yan easily defeated the few mercenaries with the strengths of five star Dou Zhes. He then slowly turned around and watched Gan Mu charging at him with a metal rod in his hands and a pale green color Dou Qi covering his body.

Carrying the Heavy Xuan Ruler with his right hand, Xiao Yan paused for a moment before his feet once again violently stomped on the ground. With an explosive sound, Xiao Yan's body shot forward and was in front of Gan Mu in the blink of an eye. He slightly tightened his grip on the Heavy Xuan Ruler and, with an extremely ferocious force, ruthlessly hacked at Gan Mu.

The sharp force of the wind breaking caused Gan Mu's white face to turn even uglier. Unable to avoid the attack, he hurriedly held his metal

rod tightly and allowed the Dou Qi in his body to surge forth before meeting the blow.

“Bang!” The sound of two metal objects colliding sounded on the road, attracting everyone’s attention.

Almost instantly after the metal rod and the heavy ruler collided, the enormous energy on them caused Gan Mu’s body to sink down to the point where the back of his feet sunk were in the ground.

“Break!” Seeing Gan Mu biting his lips and enduring, Xiao Yan let out a cold laughter. He released another bit of Dou Qi from his body and poured it into the pitch-black Heavy Xuan Ruler.

“Crack..” With the increased strength of the Heavy Black Ruler, a couple of crack lines slowly appeared on the metal rod in Gan Mu’s hand. A moment later, the crack lines swiftly expanded and the metal rod finally broke with a clear sound.

Seeing that his weapon was forcefully broken by his opponent, a horrified expression surfaced on Gan Mu’s face. His body formed a strange curve and his legs hurriedly stepped back.

“Clang!” After breaking the metal rod, the Heavy Xuan Ruler continued to hack downwards and cleaved a deep scar in the ground.

Xiao Yan raised his eyes as he saw Gan Mu avoiding the attack. His feet once again violently stepped on the ground. With an explosive sound, his body appeared behind the retreating Gan Mu’s back like a flash of lightning. He smiled, pulled his right leg back and heavily threw a kick that carried a violent force onto Gan Mu’s back.

“Grug.”

Having once again received another heavy blow, Gan Mu’s originally white face turned much paler. Another mouthful of blood was violently spat out. Like a gourd, his body rolled on the ground for over ten meters and was in an extremely terrible state.

On the main road, everyone who was watching Gan Mu getting beaten by Xiao Yan secretly took in a breath of cold air. Gan Mu being beaten

earlier could be explained with him being caught off guard. However, this chain of direct confrontation had let everyone know that the strength of this young man who appeared fairly young was above that of Gan Mu.

“He can actually defeat a nine star Dou Zhe at such a young age? In the future, just how strong will he be? What a frightening talent. The Wolf Head Mercenary Company is really unlucky to mess with such a person.” Upon seeing the decisive matter of Xiao Yan’s fight, everyone could not help but sigh with envy in their hearts.

After rolling on the ground like a gourd for over ten rotations, Gan Mu finally climbed back onto his feet. He eyed the mocking gazes around him and his eyes involuntarily turned red. Lifting his head, he stared at the young man carrying the heavy ruler with a hateful and menacing face that caused others to shudder.

“Little Bastard. If you end up in my hands, I will make you suffer a fate worst than death!” Gan Mu’s hoarse voice coldly said.

“I don’t think you will have the chance to leave this place alive.” Xiao Yan smiled. His eyes were also filled with the same dark and icy killing intent. If he was able to kill a nine star Dou Zhe, it would be a significant blow toward the Wolf Head Mercenary Company. Regardless of what happens, he would definitely not allow this guy to return alive.

Gan Mu coldly sneered but his heart was a little uneasy. The strength that Xiao Yan had displayed earlier had smashed his arrogance into pieces. He glanced at his surroundings and when the corner of his eye landed on Ling Er who was only a short distance from him, a sinister smile surfaced on the corner of his mouth. From awhile back, it appeared that Xiao Yan was together with Ka Gang’s group and it was likely that they knew each other. If he wanted to escape from Xiao Yan, he needed to think of some less-than-honest methods.

When his thought reached this point, Gan Mu moved his body and suddenly rushed toward Ka Gang’s group.

The moment Gan Mu’s body moved, Ka Gang’s group immediately realized that something was amiss. However, Gan Mu’s speed was

something none of them could compare with. Just as they had readied their defense, Gan Mu's body abruptly turned and rushed towards the inexperienced Ling Er.

"Ling Er, be careful!" Ka Gang hurriedly called when he noticed Gan Mu abruptly changing direction.

Only after hearing his call did Ling Er turn her dull gaze away from Xiao Yan. When she saw Gan Mu menacingly pouncing toward her, her small face was filled with panic. Her body, however, appeared to have solidified and was unable to move.

"Little Ling Er, ha ha. Let's go. Come and play with uncle." Seeing the panicked expression on the young girl's face, the licentiousness in Gan Mu's heart surged as he laughed lewdly.

Ling Er fell backwards onto the ground in fear when she saw that Gan Mu was in her immediate vicinity. Her pale face continued to shiver; she knew well of the fate that awaited the girls that Gan Mu had caught.

Witnessing the young girl's fear, Gan Mu became even more excited. As he prepared to grab her, however, a young man carrying a heavy ruler appeared like a ghost in front of the young girl.

Lifting his eyes, Xiao Yan shook his head slightly and said softly, "The Wolf Head Mercenary Company is indeed filled with trash." With that statement, Xiao Yan tightened his grip on the Heavy Xuan Ruler and filled it with a ferocious energy. It turned into a black shadow and quickly swung horizontally outward.

"Bang!" Under Gan Mu's horrified eyes, the ruler mercilessly smashed into his chest. Instantly, his eyes protruded slightly and his chest caved inwards. A few mouthfuls of blood and crushed internal organs were vomited from his mouth while his body was thrown backwards and came to a gradual stop after breaking two to three trees.

A chillness appeared in all the witnesses' hearts as they watched Gan Mu slowly turning lifeless as he laid under a tree.

After glancing at the corpse indifferently, Xiao Yan rotated his hand and

placed the ruler back behind him. He bade Ka Gang goodbye without turning around to look at the frightened young girl on the ground and slowly started walking toward Qingshan Town.

Eyeing the back of the young man carrying the black colored heavy ruler who was disappearing in the horizon, Ling Er, who sat frozen on the ground, said in a soft quivering voice, "I..I'm sorry."

Chapter 146: Meeting the Little Fairy Doctor again

Xiao Yan, who had been isolated for the past few months, could not help but sigh emotionally as he walked among the crushing crowds in the small town and listened to the racket from his surroundings. Humans were indeed creatures that loved to live as a group. If he had stayed alone in the wilds for decades, would he still be able to speak?

Shaking his head with a smile, Xiao Yan threw this ridiculous question out of his head and patted the Heavy Xuan Ruler on his back that had been wrapped with a black cloth. He stood at a junction and scanned his soundings. After musing for a moment, he pulled a passerby and inquired about the location of the Thousand Medicinal House. He then opened his strides and hurried in the direction the passerby indicated.

After walking through a few roads, the riotous sound slowly faded and Xiao Yan slowly followed the quiet path down a narrow street. A moment later, a unique small manor appeared in his sight.

The security at the entrance to the manor was extremely tight with over ten fully armed guards present.

Eyeing those guards, Xiao Yan's eyebrows pressed together; he did not want to alert the owner of the Thousand Medicinal House. He rotated his gaze before turning around and arriving at the back of the manor. He carefully glanced around and quietly jumped the wall.

Xiao Yan snuck into the manor and alertly avoided some of the patrolling guards. After that, he stealthily grabbed a young lady wearing a servant's uniform.

Seeing the young lady's frightened expression, Xiao Yan lowered his voice and asked, "Is the Fairy Doctor here?"

"Mm, mm." With her mouth covered by Xiao Yan, the young lady could only make some vague noises. "Tell me where her is room. Don't try anything funny. Otherwise, I'll strip you naked and throw you out!" The

soft threat issued beside her ears frightened the young lady to the point where tears appeared in her eyes. She hurriedly pointed to the path that led to the Fairy Doctor's room with her trembling hand.

Having received the information on the location, Xiao Yan knocked the young lady unconscious and hid her in a covert place. He then carefully headed in the direction that the girl had indicated.

After avoiding a couple more patrols, Xiao Yan successfully arrived at the back of a fairly quiet room. He quietly navigated around it and headed to the front only to find four guards outside the door. The four appeared like guards but from the way they occasionally glanced into the room, it gave Xiao Yan the feeling that they were meant for the person inside then those outside.

"Looks like her days aren't very good either..." Xiao Yan smiled in his heart as he traced to the back of the room, which was facing a small lake. Carefully standing on the room's wooden edges, Xiao Yan slowly shifted himself to face an open window. A moment later, his hand was grabbing the window edge as he carefully lifted his body into the room.

Xiao Yan quietly landed with his feet on the ground and scanned the room which was uniquely and serenely decorated. His heart let out a sigh as he noticed a faint fragrance scattered about the interior of the room.

Sweeping his gaze around, Xiao Yan finally saw a blurry image behind a pink colored curtain. He stepped forward and pulled open the curtain before gazing into it.

Standing on a small platform was a lady wearing a white dress who was bending her head and meticulously mixing some medicinal powder. Occasionally, she would use a crystal rod to dab a little powder and gently sniff at it under her nose.

After mixing in some medicinal powder, the lady in white appeared to have become conscious of something. She suddenly lifted her head and swept her gaze toward the smiling face of the young man. The coldness in her face gradually dissipated. She quickly glanced out of the door and waved Xiao Yan over.

Xiao Yan walked to the small platform with a smile and sat down with his legs crossed as he said, “Being watched?”

“Shh, don’t say anything.” The Fairy Doctor shook her finger and abruptly took out a small jade bottle from her pocket. She poured some pale red liquid which she used to swab on Xiao Yan’s hand.

“What are you doing?” Seeing the Fairy Doctor’s action, Xiao Yan could not help but ask in a confused voice.

The fragrance in the room is a slow-acting poison. It isn’t good for you to breath it in.” The Fairy Doctor said with a smile, “But if you apply some of the antidote that I have created, you would be immune to it.”

“Ugh...” Xiao Yan shook his head in shock as he laughed bitterly, “I didn’t think that you would apply poison even in your room.”

The Fairy Doctor smiled and parted her black hair. She somewhat helplessly said, “I don’t have a choice. As a weak female, my ability is limited so I can only rely on these unorthodox means.”

“In what way are you weak? This method of poisoning without anyone discovering it... even I was almost caught by it.” Xiao Yan shook his head and said, “Those people outside?”

“Yeah... being monitored.” The Fairy Doctor carelessly said, “The Wolf Head Mercenary Company spread the news that I had found some treasure and the owner of this Thousand Medicinal House is greedily eyeing my share. During this period of time, he had been attempting to take the Seven Colored Poison Book but I managed to hold him off. However, he is becoming somewhat impatient.”

“Why did you not leave? With your ability to use poison, there shouldn’t be anyone here who is able to stop you.” Xiao Yan smilingly asked.

“I was waiting for you to save me.” A smile surfaced on her pretty face. Seeing Xiao Yan’s helpless face, the Fairy Doctor grinned. “If I wanted to practice the Seven colored Poison Book, I would naturally require a large amount of medicinal ingredients to experiment with. Isn’t this the best place?”

“But I think I should leave today. Today is the last day of the three day deadline that guy has given me.” The Fairy Doctor moved the medicinal powder on the table into a small bottle before tilting her head and gazing at Xiao Yan. “You have once again exceeded my expectations. Unexpectedly, you not only survived staying in the inner regions of the Magic Beast Mountain Range but your strength has grown significantly. Looks like choosing to be your ally was a wise decision.”

“Ha ha, I was merely lucky.” Xiao Yan laughed and stood up. “Let’s go. I’m still intending to create trouble for the Wolf Head Mercenary Company.”

“Ha ha. Count me in. They are a factor in my current predicament. Now that I’m leaving, it is only natural that I give them something to remember me.” The Fairy Doctor said with a smile as she stood up in a pretty manner.

“Naturally, I had this intention when I came to look for you.” Xiao Yan smiled. With the Fairy Doctor’s mastery in poison, even he was a little afraid of her. If he had her help, getting rid of the Wolf Head Mercenary Company would not be difficult.

Just as the Fairy Doctor was packing up, a knocking sound came from the entrance. A middle aged man’s voice vibrated into the room, “Ha ha. Fairy Doctor, are you in?”

Although the words conveyed an inquiry, the door was opened as the words died off. The middle aged man’s eyes swept across the room. His face changed slightly when he saw the young man standing in the middle of the room. Frowning, he waved his hands, calling in the four guards behind him. They took out their weapons and faced the two people in the room.

“Fairy Doctor, may I know who this is?” The gaze of the middle aged man turned toward the Fairy Doctor who was busily packing her things as he gave an insincere smile.

“Xiao Yan.” Xiao Yan said after glancing at the Fairy Doctor.

“Xiao Yan? Weren’t you chased into the inner regions of the Magic Beast

Mountain Range?” Hearing the reply, the middle aged man’s face became blank. Instantly happiness flashed across his eyes as he said politely, “Hehe. I didn’t think that brother Xiao Yan was so strong. I admire you for escaping the inner regions of the mountain range also known as the Death Zone.”

“I was merely lucky.” Xiao Yan carelessly raised his eyes and laughed, “I will be leaving with the Fairy Doctor. Can you move aside?”

The middle aged man’s face twitched slightly as he smiled. “It is fate that allowed us to meet. Since you have come to our Thousand Medicinal House, you ought to stay a little longer. What I like most is to make friends with someone like you.” As he spoke, the middle aged man stepped back and blocked the entrance with the guards. He had already heard that Xiao Yan possessed a treasure from the cave. Now that Xiao Yan had come here, the middle aged man was not going to allow him to leave so easily.

“Mister Yao, please look at your right palm. Does it appear slightly green?” After wrapping up her things into a bag, the Fairy Doctor placed it on her back and suddenly raised her head to speak.

Hearing the Fairy Doctor’s words, the face of the middle aged man changed. He hurriedly opened his palm and found that the center of his palm appeared green. Immediately, he demanded, “You... you poisoned me?”

“Haha, this is only a means to protect myself.” The fairy doctor shook her head as she said softly, “Mister Yao, I am sure you are well aware of the potency of the medicine that I make. If I do not give you the method to create an antidote, you will at most have a month before the poison takes effect. When that happens, you will be paralysed if you are lucky or die if you aren’t.”

The soft and gentle voice echoed throughout the room. Despite being a bright and sunny day, Mister Yao felt like he was in an ice chamber. After being so careful, he had still fell into the Fairy Doctor’s trap.

Mister Yao weighed his life and his greed for a long time before he

unwillingly barked, "Hand over the antidote formula and I will let you leave."

"Having stayed in the Thousand Medicinal House for so long, Mister Yao shouldn't expect me to trust you to keep your promise. Let us leave and I will hand the formula over to you." The Fairy Doctor said in a relaxed manner.

Xiao Yan's hands were behind his neck as he stood by the side watching the owner of the Thousand Medicinal House being toyed with by the Fairy Doctor. He could not help but feel like laughing. However, on top of the situation being funny, Xiao Yan's felt a little more afraid. If this woman was given the opportunity, her future accomplishments would not be low.

"You..." Mister Yao's face turned blue with anger when faced with the Fairy Doctor's leisure looking face. He walked in a circle before violently waving his hand, ordering the guards to retreat from the room.

"Let's go." Seeing Mister Yao falling back, the Fairy Doctor turned her head toward Xiao Yan and smiled.

Xiao Yan raised his thumb and took the lead out of the door. The Fairy Doctor followed closely behind him.

With a gloomy expression, Mister Yao along with the guards followed them out of the room. He could not find it in himself to be happy; the chance for riches was flying out of his hands.

When they arrived at a spacious area, the Fairy Doctor took out a bamboo whistle and blew gently. A moment later, a huge blue eagle appeared in the sky and swiftly flew over. It hovered over the manor and slowly descended.

Eyeing the descending blue eagle, Xiao Yan grabbed the Fairy Doctor's waist and stepped off the ground, releasing an explosive sound. His body shot into the air and lightly landed on the back of the eagle.

Standing on the eagle's back, the Fairy Doctor carelessly threw a formula down before controlling the eagle and riding it away under Mister Yao's furious eyes..

Chapter 147: Breaking into the Wolf's Head

Standing on the spacious back of the eagle, Xiao Yan lowered his head and watched the small town shrink as he flew away. He then stared at the spirited blue eagle under him, feeling quite envious; this kind of flying transport was something others would covet for.

As her hand gently touched the blue eagle's feathers, the Fairy Doctor watched Xiao Yan's expression and could not resist laughing, "Why? Are you interested in my Xiao Lan? But I will not give it to you. It has accompanied me for many years."

"I might be jealous but I will not snatch other people's favorite things. And even if you were willing, I would not agree." Xiao Yan shook his head with a smile. He knew that in the Dou Qi continent, owning a pet that can help one in combat required the owner and the Magic Beast to build a relationship since there was no special contract that would bind them. However, a Magic Beast is an aggressive creature, so only a lucky few would have the opportunity to befriend and obtain their loyalty.

The Fairy Doctor only gained the loyalty of this First Ranked Magic Beast Blue Eagle when she happened to save its life a few years ago. If she gave it to Xiao Yan, it was likely that the eagle would immediately unfold its wings and fly into the mountains.

Gently stroking the feathers of the blue eagle with a smile, the Fairy Doctor said softly, "Even though Magic Beasts are very fierce, if you manage to win their loyalty, they will never betray you. On this front, they are much better than humans."

Sharing her feelings, Xiao Yan shook his head. He shifted his gaze to the fast moving ground and asked, "Where is the headquarters of the Wolf Head Mercenary Company?"

"The headquarters of the Wolf Head Mercenary Company is stationed on the south end of Qingshan Town. That region is almost entirely

occupied by them.” Her delicate finger pointed in the direction that the Blue Eagle was flying toward as she said.

“After living in Qingshan Town for so many years, you ought to know the number of members and the overall strength of the Wolf Head Mercenary Company, right?” Xiao Yan seriously inquired.

“Ahh, the Wolf Head Mercenary Company had developed in Qingshan town for over ten years and should have around seventy to eighty members. Most of the members’ strengths are between two to five stars Dou Zhe. The Wolf Head Mercenary Company has three Company Leaders. One of them, He Meng has already died in your hands so there’s only Mu She and Gan Mu.”

“Uh, Gan Mu? I met him on the way so... I got rid off him along the way.” Hearing the name, Xiao Yan waved his hand and interrupted the Fairy Doctor with a laugh.

Hearing this, the Fairy Doctor paused. Her frozen gaze stared at Xiao Yan for a long while before nodding her snow white chin. With a grin, she said, “It looks like I have once again underestimated your strength. It should be known that Gan Mu is a nine star Dou Zhe. Since you could easily kill him, you should have the approximate strength of a nine star Dou Zhe, no?”

“Haha.” Xiao Yan smiled and nodded without acknowledging or denying.

“From what you have said, the current Wolf Head Mercenary Company should be left with only Mu She who can fight with you. The others aren’t your match.” The Fairy Doctor voiced her thoughts.

“But they have a large number of people and because of some reasons, I am not versed in dealing with a situation of one against many.” Xiao Yan sighed regretfully. Although he was well versed in a couple of Xuan class Dou Technique, his Qi Method was only at a Low Huang level. The Dou Qi that can be created and stored by the level of this Qi Method was insufficient to support any attempt to kill over a hundred people.

“Those mercenaries are not a problem.” The Fairy Doctor shook her head and took out a small jade bottle from her pocket. She overturned it

and poured a colorful pill out. She handed it to Xiao Yan and smiled, “With the help of the Seven Colored Poison Book, the poison that I can now create should be able to easily make those below a five star Dou Zhe to lose their fighting strength or maybe even kill them.”

“Later, I will support you from the sky. If they intend to attack you as a group, I will scatter some medicinal powder. This pill is an antidote that I created. My poison may not have much impact on you but you can save the Dou Qi that you need to suppress the poison with it if you eat it.”

“Ahh.” Xiao Yan nodded his head and received the medicinal pill. He curiously rolled it twice on his hand. Studying it with his tier one alchemist’s eyes, Xiao Yan could see that it was not as spherical as a real medicinal pill. It was obvious that it was produced by the Fairy Doctor using an ordinary fire to mix medicinal plants together and force it into a pill shape.

Xiao Yan tossed the medicinal pill up and swallowed it. With Yao Lao, a grand master alchemist, Xiao Yan was not afraid of any lethal poison that might be secretly added into it.

After swallowing the medicinal pill, a smiling Xiao Yan said, “Let’s talk about Mu She’s strength. It would be best if you can tell me in great detail about the Qi Method and Dou Technique that he has.”

Seeing that Xiao Yan did not show the slightest hesitation when he swallowed the medicinal pill, the smile on the Fairy Doctor’s face unknowingly became more gentle. After all, Xiao Yan had carelessly swallowed the things she made even after knowing of her poisoning methods. The trust he showed moved her.

Of course, she did not know that Xiao Yan dared to boldly swallow the things she gave him because he had insurance.

“Mu She’s strength should be around that of a two star Dou Shi. The Qi Method that he trained with is a wind type Qi Method called ‘Soaring Killer Wind’ which is High Huang Level.” The Fairy Doctor’s fingers touched her black hair that was blown by the wind as she voiced her thoughts.

“A High Huang Level, huh?” Xiao Yan was relieved at hearing the words. The ‘Flame Mantra’ that he trained with may be a Low Huang Level but it would not be weaker than a Middle Huang Level. Adding the various Xuan rank Dou Techniques that he was well versed in, Xiao Yan was confident that he could narrow the gap between their star ranks.

“Other than the Qi Method, Mu She is also well versed in three Dou Techniques. One of them is an offensive Dou Technique, another is a defensive Dou Technique and the last is an agility Dou Technique.” the Fairy Doctor continued, “These three Dou Techniques are all High Huang Level.”

“What do you think? Do you have the confidence to defeat him?” Tilting her head, the Fairy Doctor laughed.

“Just wait and see the show.”

Standing on the eagle’s back, Xiao Yan watched the small town under him and smiled. According to the description of Mu She that the Fairy Doctor gave, his chance of victory did not appear low.

.....

“You said that Xiao yan did this?”

In the middle of the hall, Mu She’s eyes were red as he menacingly stared at a frightened mercenary and roared. A Gan Mu’s corpse was in front of him..

“Yes, Company Leader... the Xiao Yan whom we chased into the inner regions of the Magic Beast Mountain Range has walked out alive!” The mercenary swallowed his saliva and said with a frightened face.

Hearing this, Mu She’s dark face grew even uglier. A sinister coldness repeatedly flashed across his extremely small eyes. He paced up and down the hall before coldly asking, “Killing Gan Mu. Was this his doing by himself?”

“Although Xiao Yan launched a sneak attack first, in the face-to-face battle that followed, the Second Company Leader was still quickly defeated. I guess that Xiao Yan’s strength may be around that of a nine

star Dou Zhe.”

“How can that be? It has been a little over two months; how can he be promoted to a nine star Dou Zhe so soon?” In one corner, Mu Li immediately jumped to his feet when he heard the mercenary’s words. It should be known that Mu Li himself spent half a year to climb from a six star Dou Zhe to a seven star Dou Zhe. Yet, Xiao Yan had already risen to a nine star Dou Zhe? A blow of this kind was something that the arrogant Mu Li felt difficult to bear.

“It may not be possible for others but it might indeed be possible for that guy.” Taking in a deep breath, Mu She waved his hand and coldly said, “So what if he has reached nine stars. In front of a Dou Shi, any Dou Zhe is insignificant.”

“Give the order. We will do a thorough search for Xiao Yan. This time around, we cannot let him escape again.” He slammed his palm heavily on the table and his menacing voice said, “I was feeling sorry for not being able to get our hands on the treasure in his hands since we had chased him into the inner regions of the Magic Beast Mountain Range. To think that he would actually return once again.. Since he has returned, he can stay here forever.”

Narrowing his eyes, Mu She suddenly recalled the horrifying Dou Tehcnique that Xiao Yan had displayed that day beside the abyss. His heart jumped slightly. Quickly, he comforted himself in a soft voice, “It’s alright. Even if he had a high class Dou Technique, his actual strength is still too weak. Moreover, a high class Dou Technique...do you think I don’t have one?”

Just as Mu She was comforting himself, a mercenary figure abruptly broke open the door in a hurried manner and said with an urgent voice, “Company Leader. Xiao Yan is charging in from the front door!”

“What?” Hearing those words, the hall was in an uproar.

Mu She was similarly stunned by the news. He immediately stood up and took a few quick steps forward and pulled the mercenary up. He demanded, “How many people did he bring?”

“It’s just him alone!” The mercenary gave a strange expression as he replied.

“Alone?” Mu She’s face twitched thinking that he had heard wrongly. Instantly, he asked in a stunned voice, “You said he is charging into our headquarters by himself?”

The mercenary hurriedly nodded.

“This little bastard.. Did he smash his head against a rock? Does he really think that with just him alone, he could eliminate our entire Wolf Head Mercenary Company?”

The corner of Mu She’s mouth twitched as he laughed coldly. With a cold face, he immediately strode out of the hall and coldly said, “It’s just as well he’s here, saving me the trouble of sending people to search for him. Mu Li, get people to block the main door. I want to let him know that our Wolf Head Mercenary Company is not a place that he can come and go as he pleases!”

“Yes!” Mu Li made a large motion in nodding his head. A sinister smile appeared on his face as he quickly turned around and relayed the order.

“Let’s go. Let’s see what is it that gave this bastard so much courage. Ha ha!” Mu She waved his hand and laughed loudly as he led everyone out of the hall and hurried toward the forecourt. Behind him, a large number of people closely followed.

The group of people passed through the front hall and arrived at the forecourt to find a young man wearing black clothes standing there smiling. Under him lay over ten battered mercenaries belonging to the Wolf Head Mercenary Company who were rolling all over the ground. The hard door was also broken into pieces.

“Mu She Company Leader, haha, long time no see.” Noticing that the cold faced Mu Li had arrived, the young man gradually raised his head and smiled.

“Today, you can stay here forever!”

Mu She took in a deep breath as he eyed the messy forecourt. He

stepped forward and pointed at the young man. The expression on his face had instantly turned into one with incomparable sinisterness and perniciousness.

When faced with his pronouncement of death, the corner of the young man's mouth simply raised with faint mockery.

Chapter 148: Wreak Havoc

Watching as more and more mercenaries filled up the courtyard, Xiao Yan faintly smiled. In spite of everything, he slowly walked forward in front of the gathering crowd.

“Sorry, I’m here to wreak havoc!”

“Youngster, you have guts!”

As he saw Xiao Yan’s arrogant demeanor, Mu She’s extreme anger reversed into a smile. With a wave of his hand, in place of the originally shattered front door, a thick and heavy black door unexpectedly appeared from a secret slit. With a boom sound, it completely sealed the exit.

In the wake of the door falling, more and more members of the Wolf Head Mercenaries rushed forth from the inner courtyard and surrounded Xiao Yan with ominous glints on their faces. The weapons in their hands reflected a cold light under the sunlight.

Gazing at the dozens of mercenaries surrounding him, Xiao Yan seemed to somewhat helplessly shake his head.

“Don’t count on me going one on one with you, I will only use the safest method to thoroughly erase you!” Mu Li sneered while staring at the look on Xiao Yan’s face.

At these words, Xiao Yan lightly nodded his head; for Mu She to become the commander of this group, he could not possibly be a reckless fool. If their situations were reversed, Xiao Yan would also not engage in a one on one fight. In this world, nothing was truly fair; regardless of how despicable the method, as long as it was able to smoothly achieve its purpose, it would be the best method. Winners are eternally right and losers could only weep their defeat, Xiao Yan had a deep understanding of this phrase.

“Go, kill him!” No longer putting up with this nonsense, Mu She pointed toward Xiao Yan, his icy voice full of killing intent.

At their commander’s order, the surrounding mercenaries immediately

gripped their weapons firmly before roaring battle cries as they closed the circle around Xiao Yan.

Standing at the top of the steps, Mu She gave the rather tranquil youngster a dense gaze. He tightened his fist and coldly said, "No matter what happens, you must die today."

"Skreee!"

As everyone was charging at Xiao Yaa from all directions, an eagle cry suddenly sounded in the sky. A huge shadow descended from the sky and large amounts of white powder were scattered from it. Immediately, the empty air above the courtyard was covered with the slowly falling white powder.

"Ignore that, kill him first!" Seeing the sudden change, Mu She pressed his eyebrows together and coldly ordered.

After hearing his order, the panicking mercenaries immediately charged at Xiao Yan who was close by, aiming to kill him.

Xiao Yan watched the mercenaries coming from all directions before raising his head; the white powder was about to reach them.

Taking in a light breath, Xiao Yan began to take action. He lowered his legs and his right hand tightly grabbed the Heavy Xuan Ruler on his back. With a low cry, the Heavy Xuan Ruler was held in his palm as it flew out. A dark shadow rotated around Xiao Yan's body and the front few mercenaries that were charging at him were violently knocked by the heavy ruler. Blood spurted from their mouths as their bodies were thrown backwards.

"Bang!" The black ruler was heavily inserted into the hard ground in front of Xiao Yan. A few crack lines quickly spread out from the spot where the ruler was. With his right hand holding the Heavy Xuan Ruler, Xiao Yan's left hand suddenly aimed at the sky. He curled his palm and a powerful suction force instantly sucked the descending white powder toward the courtyard. Just as the powder descended, Xiao Yan's left hand shook and an incredibly strong pushing force blew the white powder toward the surrounding mercenaries.

“Cough, cough...” Like a storm, the white powder swirled out from Xiao Yan. All the mercenaries which the powder encompassed immediately let out a violent cough.

“There’s something strange about the powder! Pull back!”

Under Xiao Yan’s control, the powder was quickly pushed in front of Mu She. When Mu She took in a breath of it, his face changed and hurriedly gave the order.

Upon hearing his order, the mercenaries who were charging around blindly in the scattered powder hurriedly retreated. However, they began to collapse one after another after taking around ten steps back. There were only a few strong mercenaries who unsteadily withstood it and quickly withdrew deeper into the courtyard.

Seeing that only a few managed to step out of the powder filled air, Mu She’s face turned extremely gloomy. A turbulent and violent wind appeared in front of him and blew toward the powder that was spreading toward him.

Being blown by the violent wind, the powder gradually scattered, revealing numerous mercenaries that had collapsed. Numerous painful moans continued to escape their mouths.

Mu She let out a breath when he noticed that the mercenaries lives were not in jeopardy. He raised his head and stared at the young man in the middle of the courtyard. In a severe voice, he said, “Little Bastard, how dare you use poison!”

“You can take advantage of your numbers, so why can’t I use poison?” Waving his head, Xiao Yan said with a smile as he stared at the few remaining mercenaries.

With a smile, Xiao Yan supported the heavy ruler with his shoulders and took two steps forward. However, a change happened when his second step landed.

One of the mercenaries who was repeatedly groaning on the ground suddenly jumped to his feet. The sharp longsword that was in his hand

carried a thin layer of Dou Qi as it trickily and viciously stabbed toward Xiao Yan's lower abdomen.

Faced with the ambush, Xiao Yan did not show the slightest sign of panic. He tightly held the Heavy Xuan Ruler and placed it in front of him, covering over half of Xiao Yan's body. At the same time, this defense easily overcame the attack by the longsword.

"Clang!" The longsword stabbed against the Heavy Xuan Ruler. Instantly, sparks flew everywhere. However, it did not even leave white scratches on the ruler's body.

After the sneak attack failed, the ambusher did not continue to press forward. He used the reverse force from the attack and quickly retreated.

"Since you have launched an ambush, why are you leaving?" Xiao Yan was alerted to his intentions when the ambusher was about to retreat. With a soft laugh, his feet stomped on the ground. With an explosive sound, Xiao Yan's body suddenly shot forward and was only half a meter from the ambusher in an instant.

The corner of Xiao Yan's eyes carried a chilling smile as his eyes met with the ambusher. The ambusher was his old enemy, Mu Li.

Mu Li's expression was dark as he watched Xiao Yan who was in his immediate vicinity and there was panic in the deep regions of his eyes. When the medicinal powder had descended from the sky, he had used the chaos it created to get close to Xiao Yan and pretended to be poisoned a short distance from him. However, he did not expect that his acting had been easily seen through by his opponent.

"Li-Er, be careful!" The sudden change in the battlefield had also caused Mu She, who was standing on the platform, to be shocked. This was especially so when he saw that the ambusher was actually his son; the color of his face changed as he hurriedly called.

TL: Li-er refers to Mu Li. As previously mentioned, the er is an endearing term.

"Too late!" Giving a dense smile to the retreating Mu Li, Xiao Yan once

again stomped on the ground. An explosion sounded and his body quickly appeared in front of Mu Li. The Heavy Xuan Ruler in his hand carried the sound of an intense wind pressure as it violently made a horizontal swing toward Mu Li's chest.

The intense wind pressure in front of him caused Mu Li's expression to change once again. A realization hit him as he said in his heart, "This guy is really a nine star Dou Zhe?"

The thought flashed in Mu Li's mind and disappeared as he clenched his teeth. He was enveloped by Xiao Yan's attack and with his current speed, it was impossible to totally avoid the attack. Thus, he could only forcefully resist Xiao Yan's attack.

The corner of his mouth twitching, Mu Li unrestrainedly poured all of his Dou Qi into his longsword. Finally, he clenched his teeth and stabbed his sword, which was carrying a sharp breaking wind sound, at Xiao Yan's chest.

"Bang!" The huge ruler's body flew swiftly across the air and finally heavily smashed on Mu Li's chest. Immediately, a mouthful of fresh blood was violently spat out. The intense pain caused a dangerous glint to flash across Mu Li's eyes. When his body was about to be thrown backwards, his palm transferred a ferocious force onto the sword hilt. The longsword left his hand and under Mu Li's sinister gaze, pierced into Xiao Yan's chest.

Under Xiao Yan's ferocious attack, Mu Li's body, like a cannonball that had been shot out, was shot across the ground and smashed into a huge wooden pillar. He spat out another mouthful of blood as everything in front of him turned black and he fainted.

The longsword that carried a ferocious force ruthlessly pierced at Xiao Yan's chest. This desperate blow by Mu Li managed to cause Xiao Yan to take a small step back.

In the sky, the Fairy Doctor let out a shocked gasp as she saw Xiao Yan being stabbed by the longsword. She was about to ride the Blue Eagle down to rescue him when Xiao Yan lifted his hand and waved at her.

Xiao Yan lowered his head and looked at the longsword at his chest. He grabbed the hilt of the sword and pulled it out-there was no sign of fresh blood on the tip of the sword.

“The inner vest that Yun Zhi has left behind is indeed strong...” Seeing that the sword tip had no bloodstain, Xiao Yan could not help but praise in his heart. He threw the longsword aside and eyed the half-dead Mu Li.

“Li-er!”

In an instant, Mu Li was knocked backwards and flew from the battlefield. On the high platform, Mu She’s head became blank. He hurriedly jumped down and shook the unconscious Mu Li heavily. After using his finger to check that Mu Li’s breath was present, he sighed in relief. He handed the unconscious Mu Li to the mercenaries behind him and raised his head to stare menacingly at Xiao Yan. His hand slowly picked up a steel spear from the ground as his bone chilling voice was filled with an intent to kill.

“No matter what happens, you will die here today!”

“You already told me that last time.”

Xiao Yan watched Mu Li being lifted into the house and the corner of his mouth raised indifferently. When Mu Li was being smashed by the Heavy Xuan Ruler, the energy on the ruler had passed through Mu Li’s body and broke the Dou Qi vortex in his lower abdomen. In other words, even if Mu Li recovered from his injuries, he would be a cripple.

This action may appear a little cruel but Xiao Yan was unconcerned. Their relationship was one that could not be mediated. The attempt to kill him back in the mountain cave and the chase across the mountain range would have caused Xiao Yan to lose his life in the hands of the father and son had he not been lucky. Moreover, Xiao Yan understood that if he ended up in their hands, even death may be a luxurious dream. Hence, when faced with his enemies, especially those that he had a terrible relationship with, Xiao Yan would not show any mercy. He would kill if he could and ensure that the other lose the ability to take revenge if he could not kill.

Chapter 149: Killing a Two Star Dou Shi

Mu She slowly raised his spear as he stared darkly at Xiao Yan who was smiling calmly. Under the encouragement of his killing intent, the Dou Qi in his body began to surge swiftly and violently. On the surface of his body, a pale green Dou Qi slowly escaped from his body, forming a thin green cloak of Dou Qi over his body.

Manipulating the Dou Qi into an energy cloak that was attached to the body was the mark of a Dou Shi. This energy cloak not only strengthened the owner's defence, speed and attack, it also improved the owner's absorption of energy from his or her surroundings so that the energy exhausted during a fight would be supplemented. Hence, almost every Dou Shi's first action during a battle would be to call upon this Dou Qi cloak.

With Xiao Yan's current strength, he could barely cover some parts of his body if he tried to summon a Dou Qi cloak. The increase in defence, speed, and offence would also be negligible. After all, a Dou Zhe and a Dou Shi belonged to two different class. The difference between the two was extremely great.

Thus, if Xiao Yan wanted to summon a cloak as thoroughly as Mu She, he needed to first become a Dou Shi.

Watching Mu She who had summoned his energy cloak, Xiao Yan let out a light sigh. A serious expression also gradually surfaced on his face. Regardless of how nice Xiao Yan's words were, his opponent was a true Dou Shi.

Xiao Yan's hand tightened its grip on the Heavy Xuan Ruler. Following his increased focus, numerous threads of Dou Qi began flowing out of the vortex in his body and flowed turbulently within his body, providing the necessary energy for its owner to fight.

Mu She's hand slowly rubbed his spear and waited for the Dou Qi in his body to become increasingly turbulent before he suddenly let out a low cry. His feet stomped violently on the ground, shooting his body

ferociously forward. The spear in his hand trembled slightly and a couple of snow white illusions of the spear appeared.

The tip of the spear had turned into a white shadow, tricky but ruthlessly shooting toward Xiao Yan's neck. After the shot from Mu Li's longsword a short while ago, Mu She could roughly guess that Xiao Yan was wearing a defensive inner vest on his body. Hence, all of his attacks were now focused on Xiao Yan's head.

Faced with Mu She's vicious attack, Xiao Yan's body retreated slightly. He utilized the broad surface of the Heavy Xuan Ruler to block the spear's attack

"Clang... clang..."

As the two of them moved, sparks flew and a clear clang sounded each time the spear came into contact with the ruler.

Aftering using ordinary attacks to pester Xiao Yan for a while, Mu She finally grasped the latter's true strength. A nine star Dou Zhe...

Once he had roughly grasped his opponent's baseline, the corner of Mu She's mouth curled into a cold angle. As long as Xiao Yan had not been promoted to a Dou Shi, there was nothing to be afraid of.

The tricky spear overcame the resistance from the air and struck out in a lightning like manner while carrying a sharp sound. At the same time, the ruler hurriedly swung horizontally, intending to block the spear once again. However, when the spear came into contact with the Black Ruler, the spear's body vibrated which resulted in its tip swaying in a manner that it bypassed the resistance of the ruler. Mu She's eyes narrowed at his success in overcoming the ruler and a coldness flashed in his eyes. His palm suddenly struck forward, hitting on the other handle of the spear and shooting it straight toward Xiao Yan's neck.

"Bang!" Seeing the tip of the spear that was trickily shot toward him, Xiao Yan's body hurriedly retreated. His feet stepped on the ground, creating an explosive sound as his body immediately shot out.

"Soaring Wind Steps!"

Noticing that Xiao Yan's speed had explosively increased, Mu She also let out a soft cry. The tip of his foot gently pressed against the ground and the Dou Qi in his body surged. His body was like a falling leaf under a storm as he shot toward Xiao Yan with extreme speed. At the same time, the illusions of the spear in his hand began to spill forth.

Watching Mu She chasing him without giving up, Xiao Yan frowned. The corner of his eye peeked backwards and realized that he was close to the corner of the wall. A thought flashed through Xiao Yan's mind as he threw his body forward as his legs sprung backwards. A pale yellow Dou Qi covered his feet just as they were about to come into contact with the wall. He slightly bent his legs and an explosive sound immediately followed. The violent reverse force propelled Xiao Yan's body outward.

In midair, Xiao Yan carried the Heavy Xuan Ruler in his hand and made a half circle swinging motion. He then used the ferocious force caused by the explosion and smashed it toward Mu She with an incomparably fierce force.

"Thorn Stab!"

Mu She pressed his eyebrows together at the force that the shadow above him carried. He rotated the spear in his hand and cried in a deep voice. Instantly, a green colored tornado encompassed him. As the tornado spun, the surrounding air seemed to have been ripped apart. The spear was momentarily stagnant before it heavily knocked against the pitch-black Heavy Xuan Ruler while carrying a piercing wind breaking sound.

"Clang!" The clear sound of clashing metal suddenly echoed in the courtyard, lasting for a long time.

It must be said that the difference between a Dou Shi and a Dou Zhe was indeed very great. As a two star Dou Shi, the strength of Mu She's Dou Qi was not something that Xiao Yan could compare with.

With Mu She using his Dou Technique, he managed to knock the Heavy Xuan Ruler out of the Xiao Yan's hand following a clear sound.

The black ruler shot toward the sky. Having lost his weapon, Xiao Yan's face changed drastically as he tried to move his body to snatch it back.

However, Mu She simply gave a gloating and cold sneer as he pushed himself off the ground. With the help from his wind attribute Dou Qi which gave him a light body, he swiftly arrived under the black ruler and reaching out his right hand, Mu She caught it.

Just as his hand grabbed the black ruler, Mu She's face suddenly changed. The black ruler not only pulled Mu She's body to the ground with its extreme weight but also slowed the flow of the surging Dou Qi in Mu She's body with its special effect of suppressing one's Dou Qi.

Having never encountered such a situation, Mu She immediately began to panic. Even his body had also slowed down. Clearly, Mu She was used to having quick flowing Dou Qi and could not adapt to this sudden change.

"Dammit. What a weird weapon!"

The thought struck Mu She and he intended to throw aside the black ruler in his hand like a hot potato. However, Xiao Yan's body had abruptly appeared behind him and Xiao Yan's thick cold laughter caused Mu She's entire body to feel cold. "Go ahead and snatch it. Aren't you happy you got it?"

"Octane Blast!"

The cold cry in Xiao Yan's heart prompted a shockingly ferocious strength to appear on his fist. Xiao Yan tensed his fist and carrying the sound from the pressure of a tearing wind, ruthlessly struck at the back of Mu She, whose body had become sluggish.

The powerful force that had suddenly appeared behind him caused Mu She's face to change. His hand hurriedly released the ruler and the Dou Qi began to wildly rise in his body; the Dou Qi cloak on his body had once again become much denser.

That short instance in time only allowed Mu She to do so much. Before he could thicken the Dou Qi cloak's defence, Xiao Yan's attack violently landed on his back.

"Bang!"

A muffled sound of bodies hitting each other rang in the courtyard. The sound was soft and deep but it contained the feeling of genuine strength.

The ferocious strength that hit him from behind caused Mu She's face to suddenly turn white as his body was violently thrown forward. Luckily for him, his palm pushed off the ground as he was about to faceplant and after a doing a few agile somersaults in the air, he finally landed a few meters away, staggering as he did so.

He stabilized his body but before he could turn around and counterattack, Mu She's face once again changed. Manipulating the Dou Qi, he swiftly transferred his surging Dou Qi toward his back and surround the hidden force that was secretly entering.

Just as the Dou Qi was surrounded the hidden force, Xiao Yan, who was standing a short distance away, lightly called, "Explode!"

"Bang!"

Another soft and low muffled sound was emitted. Mu She's body shook violently and a painful muted yell escaped from his throat. At the corner of his mouth, a glaring bloodstain surfaced.

"What a pity..."

Eyeing Mu She whose wound was not too serious, Xiao Yan regretfully shook his head. Mu She was indeed worthy of being a Dou Shi. He was actually able to discover the hidden force of the 'Octane Blast' so quickly. Had he been a little slower in discovering it, this fight might have ended prematurely.

However, it was unfortunate that this guy's reaction time had far exceeded Xiao Yan's expectations. Within such a short time, he could muster his Dou Qi and encircle the hidden force of the 'Octane Blast'. When that happened, the explosive strength of the hidden force ended up having a much weaker effect.

Taking two steps forward, Xiao Yan grabbed the Heavy Xuan Ruler that was inserted into the ground. He flicked it slightly and stored it into his storage ring. Shifting his gaze to the terrible expression on Mu She's face,

Xiao Yan could not resist smiling. The beating that this guy had taken this time around was entirely his own doing. This might be called reaping what you sow.

“Good... good.. boy, it looks like I’ve really underestimated you.”

After wiping away the bloodstain from his mouth, Mu She’s face was filled with a menacing expression. It was the first time in so many years that he had been thrown into an embarrassed state by a Dou Zhe. At that moment, Mu She grinded his teeth as he spoke.

Xiao Yan simply smiled and ignored him. His tongue moved, promptly swallowed an ‘Energy Recovery Pill’ that he had hidden in his mouth and quickly felt the Dou Qi in his body gradually being recovered.

“Xiao Yan, you shouldn’t be too pleased. I know that you know some high class Dou Techniques.”

The spear suddenly stomped on the ground as Mu She coldly laughed. The Dou Qi cloak on his body slowly began to diminish while the tip of the iron spear began to be covered by layer after layer of thick green Dou Qi.

“But, do you think that I don’t know any?”

Mu She’s palm abruptly tightened on the spear as he sinisterly laughed: “Thanks to you and the Fairy Doctor, the third stone box in the cave had a scroll containing a high class Dou Tehcnique that is suitable for me. Today, I will let you die here.”

Hearing Mu She’s sinister laughter, Xiao Yan’s expression slightly changed. He did not expect that Mu She would actually forcefully open the stone box and risk damaging whatever that was placed in it.

Eyeing the dense Dou Qi on the tip of the spear in Mu She’s hand, Xiao Yan, who was well versed in many high class Dou Technique, naturally knew that this was at least a Xuan Class Dou Technique.

“Ugh...” Xiao Yan helplessly shook his head as he let out a soft sigh. His hand lightly skimmed the ring on his hand and the enormous Heavy Xuan Ruler once again appeared in his hand. Since it has come to this, it was

only natural that he not hold back.

The Dou Qi on the spear in Mu She's hand became increasingly dense as he coldly watched Xiao Yan's action. Finally, the shape of a roaring lion's head faintly formed within the surging Dou Qi.

Eyeing the Dou Qi lion's head that had agglomerated on the tip of the rod, joy flashed in Mu She's eyes while a menacing smile once again surfaced on the corner of his mouth. The spear in his hand suddenly gave a strange tremor as Mu She used "Soaring Wind Steps."

"Boy, today I'll let you know that the High Xuan Dou Technique that a Dou Shi uses is entirely different from what you, as a Dou Zhe, tries to use."

Mu She body ferociously pounced at Xiao Yan as he raised his head and yelled, "Wild Lion Chant!"

Following his yell, a huge swiftly running energy lion surfaced on the tip of the spear in Mu She's hand. Its violent lion roar echoed throughout the small place, causing the face of the Fairy Doctor in the sky to pale.

Lifting his eyes to see the ferocious energy lion that was on the tip of the spear, Xiao Yan's face became much more grave. He slowly let out his breath and the Dou Qi in his body began to rise. On the surface of the black ruler, a blazing light suddenly began to swell. The high temperature caused the surrounding air to form a blurry distortion.

"Flame Splitting Tsunami!"

The young man's soft cry caused the temperature in the courtyard to significantly rise. The body of the ruler also grew increasingly bright as its strange lines formed the outline of a mysterious picture on the surface.

When using the Di class Dou Technique this time around, Xiao Yan did not show any lack of strength like he did the previous time. Although with his current strength, he could not even utilize ten percent of the the Di class Dou Technique's true strength, it was more than sufficient to handle Mu She.

Amidst the red light scattered in the sky, the black ruler in Xiao Yan's

hand suddenly angrily cleaved downwards. A blazing red light light blasted from the top of the ruler. Wherever it passed, it damaged the ground and turned it into a mess. A long and deep ditch spread from below Xiao Yan's legs toward the Mu She who was charging over.

The intense pressure and high temperature transmitted by the air caused fear to flash in the deepest part of Mu She's eyes. It was beyond his expectations. In only just two months, the strength of the mysterious Dou Technique that the young man in front of him displayed had risen to such a new level.

Mu She clenched his teeth. In such a situation, he did not have the choice of pulling back because death awaited him if he did. Clearly understanding this, Mu She could only pour all of his Dou Qi into the spear without concern for his life, before smashing heavily with the red light.

“Bang!”

An enormous explosion that almost overturned the entire courtyard sounded out. At the spot where the red light came into contact with Mu She, numerous large crack lines appeared and spread out like a spider web until it entered some of the houses. The houses shook slightly and collapsed.

Within the red light, all was quiet. An instant later, a shadow shot out with an explosive force, finally smashing against a wall. The wall instantly turned into debris as smoke spread through the air.

The wind blew passed and scattered the dust. The figure of a young man carrying a Heavy Xuan Ruler gradually appeared.

Seeing that the young man below was safe, the Fairy Doctor in the sky covered her moist and red small mouth, shock in her face.

Chapter 150: Small Valley

The Fairy Doctor looked down at the courtyard which had almost turned into ruins and stared blankly. Her pretty eyes were filled with brilliance when she saw the young man carrying the Heavy Xuan Ruler. Her hand gently touched the Blue Eagle's feathers as it slowly descended into the courtyard.

Briskly leaping down from the eagle's back, the Fairy Doctor walked to Xiao Yan's side and threw her gaze toward the place where Mu She was thrown to. She softly said, "How is he?"

"At least seriously injured." Xiao Yan smiled before abruptly violently coughing a few times. His hand covered his mouth and a moment later, a bloodstain appeared on his palm.

"Are you alright?" Seeing Xiao Yan's pale face, the Fairy Doctor hurriedly patted his back and asked with concern.

"It is nothing serious. I have only overexerted myself." Xiao Yan waved his hand in an unconcerned manner. He then faced his palm to the dust filled corner of the wall and pushed. A wind swept away the dust, revealing the ruins under it.

Xiao Yan watched the faintly twitching body under the ruins with indifference. He coughed gently for a few times before he slowly dragged his heavy ruler to the side of the ruins. With a banging noise, the heavy ruler in his hands knocked a broken rock aside and revealed the pale white faced Mu She, who was in a terrible state.

"I'm sorry, but you lose."

At this moment, Mu She's legs were already smashed. His pale white face was extremely terrifying and the sound of his breath was becoming weaker until it could barely be heard. It was obvious that he was reaching the end of his life.

"Little Bastard, I have still underestimated you!" A weak choppy voice came from Mu She's mouth. Although his voice was weak, the hatred did

not diminish.

Xiao Yan simply smiled and did not say anything. His eyes remained impassive, showing no sign of pity when faced with Mu She's current state.

"Brat, if I have the chance in the future, I will let you experience a fate worse than death."

Seemingly understanding that Xiao Yan would not show him any pity, Mu She's words did not show any signs of begging for mercy. Instead, it was filled with a menacing killing intent.

"I think that you won't have this chance again."

Xiao Yan spoke indifferently. He lowered himself and searched Mu She's body. A moment later, his hand returned empty handed and he tilted his head to ask, "Where is the Xuan class Dou Technique that you found in the stone box?"

"Ha ha. You are also interested in it? It's a pity. If I die, you will never be able to get your hands on it." Lifting his head with difficulty, a dense gloating expression appeared on Mu She's face. Seeing Xiao Yan's action, he felt that he may have found something that gave him the right to bargain with the other party.

Inclining his head slightly, Xiao Yan slowly stood up and spread his hands helplessly. He was quiet for a moment and suddenly smiled, "Since it's like this... you can go and die."

After saying those words, Xiao Yan's face suddenly became icy. The Heavy Xuan Ruler in his hand heavily and angrily smashed toward Mu She's chest.

Eyeing the decisive Xiao Yan, shock and fear flashed across Mu She's eyes. He did not expect that Xiao Yan was willing to abandon the enticing Xuan class Dou Technique.

"Let me off and I will tell you the hiding place of the Xuan class Dou Technique. From now on, we will not owe each other anything!" Hovering under the shadow of death, Mu She suddenly shouted.

“Forget about it. Compared to the Xuan class Dou Technique, I dislike being remembered by some poisonous snake like cold blooded animal.” With a thick smile, the heavy ruler in Xiao Yan’s hand mercilessly smashed onto Mu She’s chest.

“Bang!”

Following the muffled sound, Mu She’s eyes protruded out while his body violently sunk inward. A mouthful of blood with his crushed organs was wildly spit out.

The eyes staring at the young man were filled with evilness. Finally Mu She’s body slowly softened and the life in it quickly disappeared.

Watching the icy corpse that was crushed under the rubble, Xiao Yan gently closed his eyes and let out a breath. He then turned around and headed toward the Fairy Doctor nearby.

“Let’s go. Mu She is dead. The apes scatter when the tree falls. Without a leader, the Wolf Head Mercenary Company has already been disbanded....” Xiao Yan softly said as he walked to the Fairy Doctor’s side. His face appeared a little exhausted.

“Yes.”

A gentle sound responded. The Fairy Doctor’s pretty eyes scanned her surroundings and found that the surviving mercenaries no longer had the will to fight after Mu She’s death. They fled in all directions with their pale faces, seemingly afraid that Xiao Yan might kill them.

The Fairy Doctor sighed gently. With the death of Mu She, all the grudges the trio had had also disappeared. She pursed her moist red mouth and said softly, “It should be time to leave...”

Turning around, the Fairy Doctor carefully helped Xiao Yan up onto the back of the Blue Eagle. She got up after him and waved her hand. Letting out an eagle cry, the Blue Eagle slowly swung up into the sky.

The Blue Eagle encircled the sky once before swiftly flapping its wings and flew off. A moment later, it disappeared in the blue sky.

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Not long after Xiao Yan and the Fairy Doctor messed up the courtyard, the news of Mu She's demise began to spread throughout the entire Qingshan Town. With regards to this news, everyone's faces were filled with shock. This shock turned into horror when they learned that the one who killed Mu She was actually the young man that was chased into the inner regions of the Magic Beast Mountain Range.

A young man that appeared younger than twenty had actually managed to kill all three Company Leaders of the Wolf Head Mercenary Company. The brutal reality caused most people to feel a little ashamed.

Mu She's death also served as an announcement of the disbanding of the Wolf Head Mercenary Company. Without Mu She's leadership, this great strength that had acted arrogantly in Qingshan Town had gradually declined into an insignificant strength. This was all because of a young man.

Naturally, the ending of the Wolf Head Mercenary Company did not have any meaning to Xiao Yan. Qingshan Town was only the first step in his training. Perhaps in the future, when his tough training was over, he might occasionally remember this small town that was located beside the Magic Beast Mountain Range. Here, for the very first time in his life, he experienced being pursued by a group of people who wanted his life.

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After leaving Qingshan Town, Xiao Yan did not rush to cross the Magic Beast Mountain Range. Instead, he was lead by the Fairy Doctor to a place with extremely dense energy.

Xiao Yan was not unfamiliar with this location. This place was the basin where numerous medicinal herbs grew, He had accompanied the medicinal herb gathering team to its outer region. However, this time around, under the lead of the Fairy Doctor, they had flew through the sky and directly into the inner regions of the basin.

They slowly landed in a small valley in the inner regions of the basin where the density of the energy caused Xiao Yan show an uncontrolled

joy. Instantly, his spirits raised.

“What do you think? This place is good, isn’t it? The small valley here is entirely isolated from the outside world and the sky is concealed by a thick fog. Was it not for the time that Xiao Lan broke into here, I’m afraid that I would never have been able to find this strange place.” Seeing Xiao Yan’s surprised face, the Fairy Doctor was pleased and she proudly laughed.

“It is really very good.”

Xiao Yan continued to praise the place as he nodded. His eyes swept across the valley that was filled with a fog of faint energy and was surprised to find numerous types of precious medicinal plants growing in this valley. Whiff after whiff of fragrance mixed with the fog, making people feel refreshed.

“Shall we temporarily stay here for some time? Some of the medicinal plants that are required for some recipes in my Seven Colored Poison Book can be found here...” The Fairy Doctor looked at Xiao Yan, her tone suggesting her intention of discussing the matter.

“No problem.”

Hearing the Fairy Doctor’s suggestion, Xiao Yan did not hesitate in agreeing. Such a good training ground was not something that he could easily come across. In his heart, he hoped that he could be promoted to the Dou Shi level in this place.

Although the valley was isolated and he could only rely on the Blue Eagle to fly him out, Xiao Yan was not too worried. With Yao Lao and the Purple Cloud Wings with him, he could also fly out if any problems were to occur.

Seeing that Xiao Yan had agreed, the Fairy Doctor also nodded with a smile. She faced the blue eagle and blew her bamboo whistle, allowing it to fly freely. After which, she led Xiao Yan to a corner of the valley. Her slim finger pointed at a straw shed there and said, “This was built by me. We shall reside here during the time we stay in the valley.”

“Haha, it may be a straw shed but with a beauty staying with me, the

days should pass by merrily.” Xiao Yan nodded as his gaze swept across the straw shed. When he tilted his head and saw the Fairy Doctor’s smooth face, Xiao Yan could not resist joking.

The Fairy Doctor’s face reddened when she heard his words. She gave Xiao Yan an annoyed but lovable stare before displaying her fist. In a low voice, she warned, “Don’t you dare do funny things because you think I’m weak.”

“Ugh, I don’t want to be poisoned by some unknown poison without me even knowing it.” Xiao Yan waved his hand and said with a smile.

“Hmph.” The Fairy Doctor’s pretty nose wrinkled as she raised her hand toward Xiao Yan and said, “I’ll go and pick some herbs. You can explore the place.” After saying those words, she turned around and headed for the distant medicinal plants.

Xiao Yan turned around and watched the Fairy Doctor gradually distance herself. He smiled and headed in the opposite direction as he whispered, “Teacher, this place doesn’t have any problems, does it?”

“This place has a strange geography. In the outside world, it is very unlikely for precious medicinal plants to grow together on such an extensive scale. And for some reason, the energy here is also very pure, which is perfect for your training.” Yao Lao’s old voice came from inside the ring, “After training for another one or two months here, I think that you should be able to become a true Dou Shi.”

“... Dou Shi...”

Xiao Yan’s footsteps suddenly stopped. He raised his head, observing the thick fog in the sky above as he slowly said, “If we count the time, it has been more than half a year since I left. There is less than a year left until the three year agreement.”

“Ah, then try to hurry. The training in the Magic Beast Mountain Range is reaching its end. Your next stop is the Tager Desert. Haha, the tough training there will be even more arduous and dangerous than what it was in the Magic Beast Mountain range.” There was a gloating tone in Yao Lao’s laughter.

Helplessly shaking his head, Xiao Yan said: "Haven't I been bearing quite a lot of hardships?"

"Hehe, you can relax and train. The Tager Desert may be dangerous but the snake women there are a specialty of the Dou Qi continent. If you are lucky, you might even be able to obtain a snake woman as a female slave, ha ha..."

Xiao Yan rolled his eyes and was too lazy to bother about Yao Lao, who was not acting as befitting of his seniority. He continued to lower his head and studied the surroundings of the valley. In the period of time ahead, he would be staying here and quietly training until he was promoted to a true Dou Shi.

Chapter 151: Purple Flame

Inside the isolated small valley, Xiao Yan and the Fairy Doctor peacefully lived their lives. One trained hard in Dou Qi while the other intently studied the Poison Book. The two did not disturb each other and these tranquil days were relaxing and fulfilling.

Promoting to Dou Shi was much harder than Xiao Yan had imagined. After training in the valley for close to half a month, although the Dou Qi inside the body became stronger and more cohesive, the feeling of breaking through to the next stage still didn't appear. To this, all Yao Lao said was to calmly wait, all according to fate's will.

To Yao Lao's secretive and deceptive words, Xiao Yan felt helpless. However afterwards, he also gradually stopped training Dou Qi all of the time and would occasionally train his Dou Techniques or learn how to recognise the different strange medicinal plants in the valley under the guidance of Yao Lao.

Due to the temptation of being in a place flush with rare and precious medicinal plants, Xiao Yan started to desire to practice his alchemy. And so, Xiao Yan set aside a small section of time every day just for practicing alchemy.

Because he didn't want to expose his status of being an alchemist, Xiao Yan chose a cave in the valley that left the ground about six to seven meters and every day when the sun was hot, he would jump into the cave and quietly practice crafting several kinds of beginner stage pills.

During alchemy, Xiao Yan was somewhat surprised to find out that the yellow flames he funneled into the cauldron were much hotter when compared to before. Following Xiao Yan's careful observation, he realized that the yellow flames inside the cauldron had a faint streak of purple.

Staring blankly at the faintly appearing and disappearing purple flames, Xiao Yan's heart moved and asked in shock, "This is...that Amethyst Winged Lion's Purple Flame?"

"How did it get into my body?" Blinking his eyes in confusion, Xiao Yan's

brow furrowed, muttering, "Is it because of that Amethyst Lion Birth Essence?"

After arriving to that conclusion Xiao Yan gradually calmed down. The Amethyst Essence was extremely similar to the small Amethyst Winged Lion, if there were a little of the latter's flame inside the former, it wouldn't be too odd a thing.

Xiao Yan's guess was pretty much correct. The Amethyst Birth Essence was the same as the small Amethyst Winged Lion in the sense that both were kept inside the mother beast's body for many years and after such a long time, it would naturally absorb some purple flames. Under a sheer coincidence, Xiao Yan blindly consumed the Amethyst Essence and the flames which were brought about with the help of the cauldron, naturally had some purple flames.

Although these purple flames were small in quantity, they were far superior to Xiao Yan's normal Dou Qi flames in quality. Xiao Yan having the chance to acquire it could be considered as a significant opportunity.

With his Spiritual Perception gradually extended into the cauldron. Xiao Yan slowly packaged the small purple flame and separated it from the surrounding yellow flames.

Looking at that lonely flickering purple flame inside the cauldron, Xiao Yan licked his lips with excitement and continued to increase the strength of the Spiritual Perception, intending to control the temperature of the flame.

Just as Xiao Yan tried to control the flame, the small little purple flame sent out a sentient will of resistance.

The failure to control the flame left Xiao Yan stunned and then he tightly knitted his brow while staring deadly at the small little purple flame. He slowly increased the strength of his Spiritual Perception and tried to test the baseline of the resistance of the purple flame.

Although purple flame was tyrannically strong and stubborn, Xiao Yan was not worried. No matter how one puts it, it was currently an object without an owner. Xiao Yan had confidence in slowly dominating it.

Inside the cauldron, Xiao Yan wrestled with the purple flame, both unwilling to become the first to be defeated.

This stalemate lasted for nearly ten minutes, and as Xiao Yan was about to give way to exhaustion, the purple flame surrounded by his Perception suddenly trembled, then surged inside the flame like a rolling river of water, quickly being able to control all of it.

As Xiao Yan funneled his Spirit Perception into the purple flame, Xiao Yan's whole body lightly shook; this trembling was as if it came from deep within the soul, quickly diffusing into his entire body. At that moment, Xiao Yan felt as if his soul was promoted, the pores on his whole body, almost all opened at this moment. That feeling was very mysterious and comfortable.

This intense pleasure caused Xiao Yan to tremble once again, his eyes that had mysteriously closed slowly opened. A light purple flashed across his pitch black eyes before fading and as Xiao Yan shifted his attention to the cauldron once again, due to the Spiritual Perception strength scattering, the yellow flames inside completely vanished while the small purple flame remained, lightly flickering.

Staring at the purple flame, Xiao Yan's gave it a quick command and it immediately flew through the mouth of the cauldron and entered Xiao Yan's body from the center of his palm.

His palm slowly leaving the cauldron, Xiao Yan exhaled in relief. His right hand gradually curled before Xiao Yan stretched out his middle finger, lightly saying, "Appear!"

Following Xiao Yan's voice, the middle finger lightly trembled. A moment after, a small purple flame quietly sprouted out from the fingertip and flickered lightly.

TL: Best way to flick someone off.

Real fire! An actual flame! With Xiao Yan's current Rank One Alchemist capability, he was actually able to create real fire from his palm which required being at least a Rank Four Alchemist to do!

Alchemists under rank four were normally required to use the cauldron's strange changes to bring out the fire natured Dou Qi inside their bodies and transform it into actual flames. Upon reaching rank four and above, the alchemists were then able to save the step of using the cauldron and immediately summon out real flames.

And many alchemists that reached this stage, when battling with another person, would basically summon out real fire to attack. Also, due to alchemist's elemental nature, they were born to have fire with wood nature and due to that wood nature, flames which alchemists summoned were way above what similar tiered Practitioners could do, much hotter and stronger.

So, being able to summon real fire with or without aid from an external object was one of the key points in differentiating whether the person entered rank four of alchemy or not.

Of course, there are no absolutes. The information mentioned above was all built under the assumption of being a normal alchemist. If someone were able to luckily acquire a Heavenly Flame, then even without achieving rank four alchemy, one would still be able to summon out real fire. In addition, the fire that was summoned out, would be way superior to normal flames summoned by normal alchemists. After all, what they controlled, was the most destructive strength under the heavens, a Heavenly Flame!

And so, Heavenly Flames would eternally be every alchemist's sacred divine object without a replacement. Of course, the destructive strength of Heavenly Flames has caused countless gifted alchemists, like moths to a flame, to perish.

Similarly a little shocked while looking at the slender purple flame at the fingertip, after a long while, Xiao Yan inhaled a breath of cold air, his voice trembling a little, "Teacher, quickly come out and see!"

"Mh?" From within the ring carried out Yao Lao doubtful voice and after a moment of silence, a figure of light suddenly flashed out from the ring and lastly floated in front of Xiao Yan, staring blankly at that purple flame.

“Heavenly Flame? No, it’s way weaker....this is....Oh right, Amethyst Winged Lion’s Purple Flame?” With doubt and shock in his eyes, Yao Lao strangely spoke out, “So that Amethyst Essence had such an effect, even being able to form the Amethyst Winged Lion’s fire origin in a human’s body.”

“Can this be considered a Heavenly Flame?” Staring intensely and agitatedly at that purple flame which looked as if it could snuff out any time, Xiao Yan urgently asked.

“Uh....it’s not.” First being stunned, Yao Lao then shook his head, said, “Although this is also a kind of strange unique flame, compared to Heavenly Flames, it is inferior by a huge margin. Uhh.....perhaps calling it a Beast Flame would be more appropriate.”

Wordlessly shaking his head, Xiao Yan spoke, “Ignoring whether it’s a Heavenly Flame or a Beast Flame, I would like to ask: is it stronger than the Dou Qi flame that I summoned using the cauldron?”

“Yes, that is an undisputable fact”

“Then, I can be considered its owner now right? I won’t be devoured by it?” Xiao Yan inquired again carefully.

“This purple flame is too small, not enough to attack you.”

“Then...if I were to devour it....my Flame Mantra, would it be able to evolve” Deeply sucking in a breath, Xiao Yan inquired again urgently.

“Uh...” Stumped once again, Yao Lao’s brow knitted, hesitating for quite a while, before speaking out uncertainly, “Perhaps yes....but even if it were able to evolve, it would not evolve to too high a stage. After all, this purple flame is far from being able to compete with a real Heavenly Flame. Also, this purple flame now is too small, even if you were to devour it now, I think, it wouldn’t be much use.”

Xiao Yan lightly nodded his head, frustration appearing on his face. Although the Flame Mantra was quite mysterious, its starting point was simply too trash. This type of Dou Qi creation and storing capability was far from being able to satisfy Xiao Yan’s usage. Also, the Dou Techniques

that Xiao Yan were familiar with, most were Xuan Tier, so after using a skill, he had to quickly swallow an Energy Recovering Pill. Or else just depending on the recovery speed of Dou Qi with a low tier Huang ranked Qi Method, would make him enter the awkward situation of having insufficient Dou Qi.

If the current Flame Mantra's tier were able to evolve to the Xuan Tier, Xiao Yan wouldn't have needed the Fairy Doctor's help going to the Wolf's Head Mercenary Group. He alone would be able to neutralize the entire hundred man strong group easily.

This, was the biggest difference between a Xuan Tier Qi Method and a Huang Tier one! And so, the current Xiao Yan, very urgently hoped for his Qi Method to quickly evolve but not only were Heavenly Flames rare, their destructive strengths would mean that Xiao Yan might not be able to successfully devour it!

So the purple flame that appeared was definitely a well in a desert, causing huge delight in Xiao Yan.

"If you really want to devour this purple flame and let it help the Flame Mantra evolve, there is actually a method." Pausing for a while, Yao Lao suddenly spoke out.

"What is it?" Hearing this, Xiao Yan perked up and urgently asked.

Gazing at that small tiny purple flame, Yao Lao smiled.

"Refine it into a flame seed, slowly nurture it, and after it reached a certain stage, use the Flame Mantra to devour it and achieve the effect of evolution!"

Chapter 152: Refining the Flame Seed

“Flame Seed?”

Xiao Yan was slightly stunned upon hearing Yao Lao's words. He was torn between laughing and crying as he said, “Why do I have the feeling that your words suggest something like rearing an animal at home, waiting for it to grow fat and then slaughtering it?”

“Hehe, it shares the same principle.” Yao Lao nodded as he smiled.

Xiao Yan nodded his head and his gaze stared at the writhing small Purple Flame on his finger which was his only hope of evolving his Qi Methods. The Heavenly Flames were a little too distant for him while this Purple Flame from the Amethyst Essence was just suitable for his current condition and strength.

“How do I refine it?” Xiao Yan sighed, raised his head and asked.

“Relax, this Purple Flame does not have an owner so it will not put up much resistance against you. Refining it into a Flame Seed should not involve too much danger.” Yao Lao said as he extended his finger and placed it on Xiao Yan's head, “Follow my instructions.”

Feeling the large amount of information that was poured into his mind, Xiao Yan carefully savored it before nodding his head. He gradually closed his eyes and crossed his legs, adopting his training position. He observed his eyes, nose then heart as his mind gradually entered deep into his body.

His mind circulated through his Qi Paths and finally arrived at the vortex in his lower abdomen. The appearance of the Dou Qi vortex was strangely much smaller than what it was before. However, if one carefully observed it, the vortex contains was much more dense and agglomerated better than before.

Xiao Yan's mind rotated around the vortex once. When he did not observe any problems, Xiao Yan followed Yao Lao's instructions and began to act.

Xiao Yan's mind went around the vortex and slowly entered it. At the

same time, his Spiritual Perception repeatedly searched for the Purple Flame that he was controlling.

Xiao Yan carefully scanned the interior of the vortex. A long while later, numerous threads of extremely small purple colored energy began gradually appearing. When the purple colored energy appeared, Xiao Yan hurriedly controlled his Spiritual Perception and encompassed them in a lightning fast manner.

“Open a small hole in the vortex that can contain the Purple Flame...”

Recalling Yao Lao’s words in his mind, Xiao Yan swiftly surrounded the vortex with his Spiritual Perception. After a brief silence, his Spiritual Perception drove the vortex into spinning at a very fast speed.

Following the vortex rotating at a fast speed, the Dou Qi that was flowing in his Qi Paths also surged quickly and ferociously. However, Xiao Yan did not have the leisure to bother about them; his mind was entirely focused on the small empty space at the middle of the vortex that was formed from the fast rotation.

Seeing that his actions were effective, Xiao Yan increased the strength of his Spiritual Perception that was surrounding the vortex. Following the increase in strength of the spiritual awareness, the speed that the vortex was spinning at grew increasingly fast. In the end, the orbit of the pale yellow colored vortex could no longer be seen while the sound of a shapeless wind reverberated outside of the vortex. Xiao Yan’s mind continued to observe the middle of the vortex where the empty space was growing wider. When it was approximately the size of a fist, Xiao Yan finally gave a relieved sigh and slowly withdrew his Spiritual Perception from the vortex.

After the Spiritual Perception was entirely withdrawn, the rotation speed of the vortex also began to gradually become weaker. As for the hole in the middle of the vortex, it was able to form a strange equilibrium with its surroundings under the control of Xiao Yan’s mind and did not disappear with the slower rotation speed of the vortex.

Seeing that the empty space did not disappear, Xiao Yan let out another

sigh in his heart. His mind slowly surrounded a thread of the purple colored energy and guided it through the blockade of the surrounding Dou Qi before inserting it into that small empty space.

Immediately after the purple colored energy entered the empty hole, Xiao Yan felt the entire vortex shake and he hurriedly used his Spiritual Perception to stabilize the vortex.

With Xiao Yan's Spiritual Perception putting in great effort to maintain the situation, the vortex finally became steady. From within the center hole of the vortex, Xiao Yan could see that numerous threads of fire type Dou Qi were continuously escaping from the vortex and pouring into the purple colored energy occupying the empty hole.

Xiao Yan's mind anxiously observed the small purple colored energy. As more and more fire type Dou Qi was poured into it, the purple colored energy let out a soft cry. A moment later, it began to transform under the observation of Xiao Yan's mind.

The color of the purple colored energy became darker. When it darkened to a certain stage, the purple colored energy suddenly trembled and a faint flame rose from the purple colored energy. Instantly, the purple colored energy was consumed by the tiny purple flame.

In the dark empty hole, the purple colored flame flickered alone. Its faint warmth spewed and entered the Dou Qi vortex outside.

When the faint heat entered the Dou Qi vortex, Xiao Yan could feel that the rotation of the vortex became much faster. Xiao Yan's initial reaction to this occurrence was shock and was instantly replaced by an uncontrolled joy. If the vortex could spin faster on its own, it meant that Xiao Yan did not need to manually control it. The Dou Qi from the surrounding environment would also automatically and continuously be poured into his body, allowing him to constantly be washed by Dou Qi. This kind of benefit was undoubtedly extremely useful for his training.

After the purple colored flame appeared in the empty hole, it was as though it had started a huge circulating machine that was slowly beginning to spin.

The purple colored flame needed to absorb the fire type Dou Qi from within the vortex in order to grow while the heat that it emitted, increased the Dou Qi absorption rate of the vortex. This ever repeating relationship significantly benefited both the Purple Flame and the vortex.

Xiao Yan's mind observed the vortex once again. When he was certain that there were no problems, Xiao Yan finally withdrew his mind from within his body. He gradually opened his eyes and a purple light flashed across his pitch-black eyes. A moment later, his pair of eyes gradually recovered their original deep black color.

"How is it? Successful?" Seeing that Xiao Yan opened his eyes, Yao Lao, who was waiting patiently, asked.

"Yes, I've refined it into a Flame Seed." Xiao Yan nodded his head and extended his palm. He rubbed his fingers gently. After a clear sound, a tiny purple colored flame rose from the tip of Xiao Yan's finger.

With a gaze that was full of curiosity, Xiao Yan played with the purple fire that belonged to him. A moment later, his finger gently touched a mountain wall beside him. Instantly, the wall was charred.

"This thing appears to be much weaker than Teacher's Bone Chilling Flame..." Xiao Yan bitterly smiled as he eyed the mark created by the flame.

"Of course. My Bone Chilling Flame is a Heavenly Flame and is ranked eleventh on the Heavenly Flames Ranking List. If this broken thing of yours can be compared with it, why would I have bothered taking the risk of being burnt into ashes to search for it?" When he heard Xiao Yan's comment, Yao Lao immediately rolled his eyes and scolded him with a smile.

Xiao Yan helplessly shook his head. Those words of Yao Lao's were a significant blow to him. Something that he had luckily obtained after going through so much effort was described as a broken thing by Yao Lao.

"Alright, stop looking so downtrodden. This Purple Flame of yours has just been born, how much strength can it have? After you raise it, it should not be too weak. Didn't you see the strength of the Purple Flame

attack by the Amethyst Winged Lion? Even that woman called Yun Zhi with her Dou Huang strength did not dare to simply block it. From this, it can be seen that this flame is not ordinary.” Seeing Xiao Yan’s disappointed expression, Yao Lao comfortingly said.

Xiao Yan sighed and nodded. With a bitter smile, he said, “If I want to raise this little Purple Flame to the strength similar to that of the Amethyst Winged Lion, I’m afraid it would take at least a few decades.”

“This is true if we use normal reasoning.” Yao Lao nodded. When he saw Xiao Yan’s depressed expression, he helplessly said, “But don’t you have the Amethyst Birth Essence? That thing is the best catalyst in raising the Purple Flame. As long as you can withstand the slight pain that it brings you, your Purple Flame should be able to grow at an extreme pace.”

“Amethyst Lion Birth Essence?”

Hearing this, Xiao Yan was momentarily stunned. Unrestrained happiness quickly filled his face as he clumsily took out a small jade bottle from the storage ring. He opened the cap and a warm unusual fragrance was emitted from it.

After taking in a deep breath of this scent that was filled with dense fire energy, Xiao Yan abruptly realised that the purple flame on his finger also became stronger under the scent.

“What a dense fire energy.” Xiao Yan involuntarily gasped as he felt the Purple Flame’s movement.

“When you train in the future, it will be best if you choose to do so under the hot sun. Additionally, you cannot consume too much of the Amethyst Lion Birth Essence. Of course, if you want to repeat the painful experience like the last time, you can ignore my words.” Yao Lao jokingly said.

Recalling the pain of his burning body the last time, Xiao Yan’s body shuddered. That feeling was not something he wanted to experience a second time.

“With your current strength, you should only use your finger to dip a little of it and swallow it into your body when you train. If you use too

much you might end up burning yourself again.” Yao Lao seriously reminded.

“Ahh.” Xiao Yan quickly nodded his head. He did not dare make a joke out of this; it was more than enough to experience that kind of pain once.

“Using the Amethyst Lion Birth Essence to speed up the growth of the Purple Flame... how long will it take before it can be swallowed?” Xiao Yan tightly held the jade bottle in his hand, lifted his head and bitterly asked, “A few years? If I had that kind of time, I might as well go and search for the Heavenly Flame.”

“With the Amethyst Essence, you don’t need so much time. On top of that, it is not necessary for the Purple Flame to reach the strength of that the Amethyst Winged Lion achieved. With your current strength, if you really groom the Purple Flame to that extent, you might end up being burnt to ashes by it. If you don’t have sufficient strength, playing with fire will result in you being burnt.” Yao Lao shook his head and voiced his thoughts, “Perhaps, a month from now, you should be able to use ‘Flame Mantra’ to try and swallow the Purple Flame.”

“A month?” Xiao Yan licked his lips and softly mumbled. before quickly nodding his head seriously.

“Alright, a month from now, I’ll swallow the Purple Flame and evolve my Flame Mantra!”

Chapter 153: Strange Musings

Packing all of his things, Xiao Yan left the cave. At this moment, it was noon outside. The blazing sunlight glared, smothering the entire mountain with blistering heat.

After jumping down from the cave and walking a few steps, he coincidentally met the Little Fairy Doctor, who was carrying a flower basket and had just returned from harvesting medicine. At the moment, she wore a green cloth over her head, like a pretty little village girl. Xiao Yan was a little amused, shaking his head and smiled as he greeted her.

The Fairy Doctor smiled sweetly at Xiao Yan, her eyes sweeping across the mountain cave. She was smart enough to not ask any questions, everyone had their own secrets and she was no exception. So, she did not delve deeper into what Xiao Yan did in the cave and pretended she hadn't seen anything. Xiao Yan did not comment about her reaction, but rather he was instead happy and liked the way she reacted.

“Hungry? I'll make lunch.”

While strolling to the house along with Xiao Yan, the Fairy Doctor turned her head, smiled cheekily at Xiao Yan when she spoke. Then, she bent down, rolled up her sleeves and started a fire in the stone kitchen, methodically arranging all of the ingredients.

Sitting on a rock to the side, Xiao Yan watched the Fairy Doctor who was lightly humming a song while working busily, causing him to smile. She was definitely a resourceful and ingenious girl but of course, Xiao Yan wouldn't forget that this beautiful and pure girl who was cooking currently with her white as jade hands, was similarly deft and devious when using poison.

Poison Masters, the reputation of this occupation on Dou Qi Continent wasn't great. A lot of people were scared to build relationships with Poison Masters since the latter could use poisoning methods that were impossible to guard against and would leave enemies, even friends uneasy.

Similarly, if it wasn't for the help of Yao Lao, a grandmaster level alchemist protecting him, Xiao Yan wouldn't dare to eat the food that the Fairy Doctor gave him. After all, when one was outside, one had to be very careful because no matter what, each person only had one life.

And perhaps because Xiao Yan didn't reject any of the food that the Fairy Doctor prepared, after living together for half a month, the Fairy Doctor was friendlier and gentler towards Xiao Yan. Of course, this warmth didn't have any hint of romance, Xiao Yan was able to recognize straight away that the Fairy Doctor treated him as a really close male friend.

And to this girl's sensitive heart, what she really needed was not a lot. Only a little bit of trust was able to produce a beautiful smile on her pretty face but alas, her occupation, made her fated to receive little of this.

To this, Xiao Yan was slightly ashamed. If it wasn't for the help of Yao Lao, he definitely wouldn't have been able to attain the Fairy Doctor's friendship.

Sitting on the rock, Xiao Yan looked at the beautiful figure who was busily making lunch for two. Lightly exhaling, he suddenly asked, "When are you planning to leave here?"

"Huh?" Hearing Xiao Yan's question, the Fairy Doctor turned her head back. Her hands pushed aside her bangs and staring doubtfully at Xiao Yan with her beautiful eyes, she lightly asked, "Why?"

"Don't misunderstand, this is your place, I wouldn't dare to chase you out." Wringing his hands, Xiao Yan teased. "Due to several reasons, I might be staying at this place for roughly a half month to a whole month. I was thinking, if you had any urgent matters, you could...."

"Its okay, you can stay however long you like. I really don't have any urgent matters to attend to. I was thinking that if I had time, I could adventure in the Dou Qi Continent for a while but it's not an urgent matter. My time isn't rushed...." Sighing in her heart, the Fairy Doctor turned and laughed unconcernedly.

"Adventuring in the Dou Qi Continent? That's not a bad idea." Xiao Yan

nodded his head in agreement. Adventuring in the Dou Qi Continent was also one of his dreams.

“You are interested? Then we could travel together.” Adding a little wood into the fire, the Fairy Doctor laughed and said.

“Ah, I still have some matters that I have to complete so in the short term, I don’t have that mindset or the free time to do so.” Xiao Yan shook his head and laughed.

“That’s regrettable. It was so hard to find a likeable companion.” Shaking her head with a little regret, Fairy Doctor spoke grudgingly.

“Going out to adventure.....Just some friendly advice: you should try your best to conceal your identity as a Poison Master. If not, your trip will be quite lonely.” Brooding for a while, Xiao Yan suddenly spoke out seriously.

Her body trembling, the Fairy Doctor threw a few non-poisonous mushrooms into the pot then stared at the boiling pot. Lightly sighing, she was clear about her own status, it would incite the fear in many.

“Uh....actually, you can’t be considered a Poison Master yet. Hmm, you can use your identity as a doctor to adventure. At least a doctor would gain people’s respect easily.” Gazing at the Fairy Doctor’s suddenly mute profile, Xiao Yan forced out a laugh.

“I will become a Poison Master sooner or later and also, I might be the kind that incites the most hatred and fear.” Sighing faintly, Fairy Doctor softly spoke.

“...Whether you become a Poison Master, it depends on yourself. This kind of thing, at least no one would force you?” Hearing this, Xiao Yan was a little befuddled.

“Ai, you wouldn’t understand.....” Her hair fell down and covered her pretty face. The Fairy Doctor muttered softly, “If we meet in the future, I hope you are still able to treat me as a friend.”

Scratching his head in bafflement, Xiao Yan’s was totally confused by the Little Fairy Doctor’s mysterious words.

“Haha, it’s done.” Shaking her head, the Fairy Doctor looked at the boiling pot, and suddenly smiled. Stretching out to take a small bowl from the side, she ladled a bowl of mushroom soup and served it carefully to Xiao Yan.

Reaching over and taking it, Xiao Yan smelled a delicious fragrance, his mouth started to salivate and swallowing his saliva, he gave the Fairy Doctor a thumbs up, then ignoring the heat of the soup, he started drinking it.

Staring at Xiao Yan who was holding the bowl of mushroom soup and eating without any hesitation, a happy smile appeared on the Little Fairy Doctor’s pretty face. She really liked how Xiao Yan trusted her.

Squatting on the rock, Xiao Yan drank quite a few bowls of mushroom soup then returned the bowl to the Fairy Doctor in satisfaction. Patting his round stomach, smiling happily and said, “Good skills. Whoever marries you will be very fortunate.”

“Marry me?” Hearing Xiao Yan’s words, the Fairy Doctor couldn’t help but smile and said, “You have to know that a Poison Master is one of the Dou Qi Continents least married occupation because not many people would be brave enough to share a bed with a wife that can release a deadly poison in a split second.”

Shaking his head helplessly, Xiao Yan felt that the Fairy Doctor was really a little too pessimistic. Even if being a Poison Master made people a little scared and fearful, her current ability was far from reaching that stage right?

Those grandmaster level Poison Masters that were infamous, able to make everyone fearful and not dare to step anywhere near, wasn’t something that anyone could become.

“Remember, if we are to meet again on the Dou Qi Continent in the future, you cannot detest me. Because if so, I think I would be really sad.” Organizing the utensils, the Fairy Doctor walked towards the house and just as she was about to enter, her footsteps stalled and quickly turned

around to speak with a slight smile. Upon finishing speaking, she entered the house, leaving a totally baffled Xiao Yan on the rock alone.

Staring blankly at the small house for a long while, Xiao Yan smiled helplessly. Even if she were to become a Poison Master in the future, why did that matter? Just based on her occupation, he would hate her?

After entertaining wild thoughts and crazy conjectures for a while, Xiao Yan lazily stood up. Arriving at an area under a mountain, he lifted his head and looked at the scorching sun in the sky. His legs slightly moved then stepped heavily on the ground. Following that was a crisp explosion sound, Xiao Yan's body was like a cannon bullet, charging up the cliff and as that strength was expiring, his feet once again heavily stepped on the rock wall. Amidst the explosion noises, Xiao Yan's body charged straight up the rock wall unendingly.

Upon the fifth explosion, Xiao Yan's body volleyed in the air, landing firmly on one of the mountain peaks inside the valley. From here, the small house down in the valley was not even as large as half a fist.

As it was noon currently, the glaring sun in the sky gave out burning hot rays of light unrelentlessly. The exposed rocks outside, under this baking sun, was so hot that people wouldn't dare to touch it.

Xiao Yan's landing location was just a nice protruding rock slab. This was the best place to "enjoy" the hottest sunbathing.

Wiping the sweat on his forehead, Xiao Yan smiled bitterly and shook his head. After complaining about how tough training was to himself, he sat down on the sweltering stone slab. A moment later, the heat from his butt caused Xiao Yan to grit his teeth. Sitting upright, Xiao Yan ignored the constant sweat that kept rolling down from his face, both hands forming the training seal and started to still his mind.

Just as he finished completing his training posture, Xiao Yan found that the fire natured elemental energy from the surroundings started to funnel into his body. His mind routinely and familiarly refined the energy that just entered in his Qi Paths, lastly channeling it into his Qi vortex. After circulating it into the Qi vortex, it was then channeled into the purple

flame in the middle of the Qi vortex.

Absorbing this fire natured Dou Qi with hints of the hot sun, the purple flame started to flare up and after devouring, the small purple flame seemed as if it grew a little bit.

Under the attention of his mind, every bit of the slow growth of the small purple flame was noticed by Xiao Yan. Looking at the decent results of training, he was quite delighted and after absorbing the energy from the outer environment for a while, Xiao Yan slowly opened his eyes. He then took out the jade bottle which contained the Amethyst Essence from the ring. His fingertip lightly and carefully dabbed a little, then put it into his mouth and lightly tasted it. Following his saliva, it was swallowed into his stomach.

Just as the Amethyst Essence was swallowed into his stomach, Xiao Yan's face flared red. The originally normal skin, at this moment started to have hints of red. Feeling the change in his body, Xiao Yan quickly focused, then circulated the Dou Qi in his body and started to neutralize this intense and tyrannical energy.

On the mountain rock, under the glaring sun, the youth was sweating heavily and gritting his teeth while he endured the trial of the intense heat inside his body, like a silkworm enduring the pain before breaking out from the cocoon and becoming a butterfly.

After the pain, it was like a rebirth. Only, this journey of change, required painful and harsh trials to nurture.

Chapter 154: Woeful Poison Body

Day after day gradually passed as Xiao Yan quietly trained in the isolated valley. Since Xiao Yan had begun refining the Purple Flame, half a month had passed.

During this half a month, Xiao Yan had basically gave up on training his Dou Qi and transferred all of the energy that his body had absorbed from the surroundings into the Purple Flame that was similar to a bottomless pit. As this craziness was prolonged, Xiao Yan's achievement was also very obvious.

The Purple Flame, which used to be approximately the size of one's pinkie, had now been enlarged by ten times. Each time Xiao Yan looked into himself and saw the growing Purple Flame, a satisfied feeling would appear within him. At this pace, he would at the very most need another half a month before the Purple Flame would achieve the requirement necessary for him to evolve his Qi Method.

It was another day training under the hot sun. Xiao Yan was seated on the rocks. his clothes had already been drenched by his sweat. After enduring the training under the hot sun for around two hours, Xiao Yan finally exited from his training mode when the temperature in the air was slowly declining, He lowered his head, saw his drenched clothes and helplessly shook his head.

Xiao Yan stretched his body and then closed his eyes to look inside him. When he observed that the Purple Flame has grown a little again, he gave a satisfied smile, got to his feet and lightly hopped.

After half a month of being under the sun, Xiao Yan's skin had turned darker. His delicate and handsome face also appeared a little more mature from his perseverance in training.

When his slightly numbed legs recovered to their original state, Xiao Yan extended his arm and lightly flicked his finger. Following a soft sound, a huge ball of purple colored flame suddenly rose from Xiao Yan's palm and instantly covered his entire hand.

After half a month of tough training, the tiny Purple Flame that erupted from his finger could now cover his entire hand.

Xiao Yan grinned as he watched his hand that was encompassed within the Purple Flame. He slowly tightened his fist and suddenly threw a punch out. Instantly, the high temperature grilled the air in front of him till it became slightly distorted and blurry.

“Tsk tsk. If this was hit onto someone’s body, the effect should not be too bad.” Xiao Yan smiled and said softly while allowing the Purple Flame on his hand to slowly rise.

Xiao Yan played with the Purple Flame on the mountain rock before he reluctantly kept it in his body. His body shook slightly and the Purple Cloud Wings shot out from his back. He tilted his head and smiled at the black wings that held a glowing purple color, then leaped back down into the valley.

The intense sound from the wind blew past Xiao Yan ears. When he was around twenty meters from the ground, Xiao Yan’s wings flapped and his quick descent slowed down. He extended his palm, aimed at the ground and unleashed an explosive pushing force. With the force, Xiao Yan’s body was lifted slightly, allowing him to flip in the air. Meanwhile, the Purple Cloud Wings on Xiao Yan’s back transformed back into the tatoos on his back with a shrinking sound.

Xiao Yan’s legs steadied landed on the ground and his body shook slightly, eliminating all the forces on his body. A moment later, he straightened his body and headed to the small cottage with a smile.

As he slowly approached the small cottage, Xiao Yan frowned. Normally, the Fairy Doctor would have returned from picking herbs by now. Yet, why was it so quiet today?

A suspicion flashed in his mind. Xiao Yan gradually arrived at the front of the small cottage and knocked on the wooden door but there was not the slightest sound in it. He knocked again for a few times, obtaining the same result.

Pressing his eyebrows together, an uneasiness flashed across Xiao Yan’s

heart. He stood at the door and hesitated for awhile. Finally, he clenched his teeth and violently kicked open the wooden door.

After roughly kicking open the door, Xiao Yan hurried in, only to find that the room was filled with smoke, causing him to cough a few times. His right palm was hurriedly extended and a ferocious force was unleashed from his palm, instantly sweeping all of the smoke out of the straw house.

As the smoke inside slowly dissipated, Xiao Yan saw the Fairy Doctor on the bed with her eyes closed. Her originally red and moist face was now strangely covered with seven different colors.

Seeing that the Fairy Doctor did not appear to be breathing, Xiao Yan panicked. He was about to hurry over when a light figure suddenly rushed out from the black colored ring in his hand and shouted, "Don't go over!"

Yao Lao's shout shocked Xiao Yan into pausing at the same spot. It was a long while later when he recovered from this deafening scream. He looked at Yao Lao curiously, his face filled with confusion.

"If you want to die, you can touch her." Yao Lao said in a deep voice as he stared at the Fairy Doctor's seven colored face with a serious face.

"Why?"

Seeing Yao Lao display such an expression for the first time, Xiao Yan suffered a great shock. His gaze swept across the Fairy Doctor once more as he asked in a perturbed voice.

Yao Lao did not answer. His floating body circled the unconscious Fairy Doctor for a few times. A moment later, he shook his head and sighed softly, "It really is..."

Seeing Yao Lao's downcast face, Xiao Yan's heart tightened. He carefully asked, "What exactly is wrong with her?"

"Look at her hand." Yao Lao pointed at the opened jade bottle in the Fairy Doctor's hand.

Hearing this, Xiao Yan hurriedly moved his gaze towards the Fairy

Doctor's hand. On it, he saw that she was holding a small bag of black medicinal powder. Xiao Yan's eyes blinked doubtfully. He stepped forward, stopped a few feet from the Fairy Doctor's hand and lightly sniffed the smell unleashed by the medicinal powder. Instantly, his head felt giddy and his chest felt like everything was being overturned. He felt weak and was forced to sit on the ground while gagging for a long while. Finally, he stood up and said in a stunned voice, "What a powerful poison. That thing should even be able to kill a Dou Shi if they are not careful."

"Yes, even I have to admit that this little girl is extremely gifted in making poison." Yao Lao nodded with a smile. His voice containing a praise or some other feeling.

Xiao Yan smiled bitterly and nodded. He also felt that the Fairy Doctor was a natural expert poison manipulator. Maybe calling her a Poison Fairy was more accurate.

"Look at the corner of her mouth." Yao Lao pointed out as he floated in the cottage.

Xiao Yan's gaze moved from the Fairy Doctor's hand to her red lips that was dripping with beauty. His eyes narrowed. Beside the red moistness, there were remnants of the black powder. From its color and scent, it was obviously the black colored poison the Fairy Doctor held in her hand.

"She took the poison and committed suicide? How is that possible? For no reason, why did she kill herself?" Staring stupidly at the black remnants, Xiao Yan muttered in a perplexed manner.

"Who said that she committed suicide? Have you seen any dead person who looks so beautiful?" Yao Lao rolled his eyes and curled his lips as he said.

"Her strength is only that of a one star Dou Zhe, how can she withstand something that could even kill a Dou Shi?" Xiao Yan wanted to pounce forward and check for the Fairy Doctor's breathing but after Yao Lao's yell from before, he could only pace around anxiously.

"If she was an ordinary person, she would certainly die. But..." Yao Lao's eyes stared at the beautiful sleeping posture of the Fairy Doctor on the bed

and softly said, “But she won’t.”

“What do you mean?” Xiao Yan paused his footsteps and asked in a stunned voice. “Where is she different? Is it because of her identity as a poison master? But even if it was a poison master, being poisoned to death by their own poison is not something unusual. It is not as though they are invulnerable to poison.”

“Correct. Even highly skilled poison masters have the possibility of being killed by their poisons.” Yao Lao nodded and said in a grave voice, “But there are always exceptions. In the Dou Qi continent, there is a kind of special physique. This kind of physique is given the name... ‘Natural Poison Body’ or ‘Woeful Poison Body’ as the appearance of such a poison body would usually bring woe to others.”

“Natural Poison Body? Woeful Poison Body?” The foreign names held no significance in Xiao Yan’s mind.

“You have stayed in Wu Tan City for most of your life and it is only natural that you are unaware of some of the secrets of the Dou Qi continent. Back when I still had my physical body, a woman with the Woeful Poison Body appeared on the Dou Qi continent. In a moment of anger, this woman poisoned the grounds of an entire empire. On the poisoned grounds, hundreds of thousands died.”

“Hmmm...” Hearing those words, Xiao Yan quickly inhaled cold air. Was that woman not overly vicious? Hundreds of thousands of lives were just mercilessly taken? Was she simply killing chickens?

“You should know that there are laws amongst the strong in the Dou Qi continent. The woman’s actions were undoubtedly breaking these unofficial rules. After all, there were many strong people who originated from that empire... thus, the situation was erupted from this. One by one, many strong people went to find that woman to seek revenge but each of them in turn were defeated. Oh yes, amongst those strong people, the weakest was at least a Dou Ling and the strongest was a nine star Dou Huang who was about to step into the Dou Zong stage.” As Yao Lao recounted, he suddenly waved his hand. “Unfortunately, they were all

killed in the woman's hands."

"Gulp..." Xiao Yan swallowed his saliva with difficulty as he wiped the cold perspiration off his face. Wasn't that woman too strong? She really killed people like killing chickens and dogs.

"At the end of the entire mess, a couple of the old farts were pulled into the mess. After an intense fight that outsiders were unaware of, this woman who was a mere five star Dou Huang escaped after being injured while among the old farts, a Dou Zong level Practitioner took ten years to expel the poison before he managed to fully recover."

"Incredible..."

Xiao Yan's throat rolled for a moment. With just the strength of a Dou Huang, she dared to confront a Dou Zong and actually managed to leave behind a severe wound? With regards to this type of person, Xiao Yan could only use the word "Incredible" to describe them.

"After this woman fled afar for twenty years, she once again appeared. By that time, she had already been promoted to the Dou Zong class. At this time, those old fools which had secretly suffered in her hands did not dare come out and randomly judge her. Thus they could only pretend to be deaf and ignored all news about her."

"Twenty years... Rising from a five star Dou Huang to a Dou Zong. This speed can be considered to be abnormal." Xiao Yan said as he shook his head.

"Ah... this woman does indeed possess that kind of frightening talent." Yao Lao nodded his head as he shifted his gaze to the Fairy Doctor on the bed and softly said, "After that, I bumped into that woman once when I found a Spiritual Herb and a conflict started. Finally... we ended up fighting." Xiao Yan's eyes gradually widened. This was the first time he heard Yao Lao leak some of his old deeds. Immediately, he hurriedly asked, "What was the result?"

"The result..."

Yao Lao smiled and raised his head. His muddy eyes appeared to sigh

over the memories. A long while later, he gave a faint smile and said, “The result can be considered that I beat her by a little.”

Xiao Yan took in a deep breath. His face was filled with shock.

Chapter 155: The Terrifying Condition

A tiny victory: although Yao Lao had been very vague about it, Xiao Yan still managed to sense the meaning within. When the woman was at the Dou Huang level, she had already dared to put her strength against Dou Zong level Practitioners. And at the time when she fought with Yao Lao, she had already reached the Dou Zong level yet it still ended in Yao Lao taking the upper hand. Looks like, it would not be an exaggeration to say that the Yao Lao at that time stood at the apex of the Dou Qi Continent.

Gazing at Xiao Yan's stunned face, Yao Lao could not help but chide, "What's there to be surprised about? In the future, you can also reach such a stage!"

"Maybe."

Xiao Yan shrugged, declining to comment. That kind of level was already beyond the reach of just talent alone, both chance and luck were indispensable for it to happen. The current him merely wished for the Purple Flame to be quickly nurtured before gobbling it up to evolve his Qi Method and also allow himself to quickly become a Dou Shi. As for Dou Huangs, Dou Zongs..... these were just super existences that could easily suffocate Xiao Yan with just their names, he truly did not want to bite off more than he could chew.

"According to the teacher's explanation...the Fairy Doctor, could she possibly have a Woeful Poison Body?" Xiao Yan asked as his gaze once again swept across the seven colors on the Fairy Doctor's good-looking face while she laid on the bed.

"Yes." Slightly nodding his head, the smiling expression on Yao Lao face slowly receded. He stared at the Fairy Doctor for a good while before lightly sighing, "I had once fought that woman, thus my rather deep impression of the Woeful Poison Body."

"This kind of poison training method is rather unique, they do not need long years Dou Qi training. Rather for them to become stronger, they only need....." As he spoke till this point, Yao Lao's eyes turned towards the

traces of powder at the corner of the Fairy Doctor's mouth with a slightly odd expression.

“Consume...poison?” As he saw where Yao Lao was looking at, Xiao Yan was firstly stunned, though his expression quickly changed as he said in shock.

“Ah, correct... it's is consuming poison. Once they consume poison, their Woeful Poison Body will use a stange technique to convert the energy contained in the poison into a special poison Dou Qi.” Yao Lao smack his lips in amazement as he continued, “The more acute the poison is, the more effective it is in raising their strength. Thus, they don't need to go through any tough training. As long as they continue eating poison, their strength would rapidly rise.”

“It truly is.....a terrifying physique!” Sighing gently, Xiao Yan bitterly laughed.

“Naturally, there is nothing perfect in this world. This Woeful Poison Body may be able to swiftly raise one's strength through the consumption of poison but poison at the end of the day is still poison. By relying on the Woeful Poison Body, one can stop the poison from devouring his or her bodies. However, when more poison accumulates over time to the point when the Woeful Poison Body cannot suppress the poison Dou Qi, then... tens of thousands of poisons will devour the body, causing the owner to slowly die under the most painful torture.” Yao Lao shook his head and sighed.

Recalling pain makes one prefer death over life, Xiao Yan's body gently shivered. With some pity, he looked at the Fairy Doctor on the bed who appeared like Sleeping Beauty and dejectedly asked, “Is there no solution to this?”

“It is only natural to pay the price for gaining the ability to train quickly. In this world, there is no such thing as a free lunch.” Yao Lao said faintly.

“Then if she were to give up consuming poison to gain strength, is it possible to avoid such an end?” Xiao Yan pupils spun around as he asked.

“In theory, it is possible.”

Nodding his head, Yao Lao saw the happiness on Xiao Yan's face and sighed, "Unfortunately, you need to know that for those who own a Woeful Poison Body, the more potent the poison, the greater the attraction to them. It can even go to the extent of killing and stealing just to get their hands on an acute poison. In their eyes, acute poisons possess a lure similar the lure that the 'Heavenly Flames' has to an alchemist. They will use all kind of methods to get it, even if they have to become like moths leaping into a fire, they will not hesitate to leap into it... Do you think it is possible for you to get her to give up consuming poison?"

"If she had never consumed poison then the Woeful Poison Body would never kick in. However, once she consumed poison, even if it is by mistake, then the Woeful Poison Body will really be activated. Once that happens, the conditions that I have just describe will occur and there's no longer a chance to reverse it. In summary, we have discovered it too late, otherwise..." Yao Lao sighed regretfully.

With his mouth opened, Xiao Yan's expression continued to change irregularly. A long while later, it dispiritedly softened. According to Yao Lao, those acute poisons had the same attraction as drugs to a drug addict. Getting her to give it up may not be possible.

"Her current Woeful Poison Body is at its initial stage so it is alright for her to come into contact with you when she's conscious. However, when she's unconscious or when the poison body matures in the future, that will be... whatever she touches, will die."

The corner of Xiao Yan's mouth twitched. He finally understood why the Fairy Doctor had told him those strange words not so long ago. It looks like she had already known that she possessed this strange Woeful Poison Body.

"How does she know? She has been staying in that small town, so how would she know about this secret information that not many people in the entirety of the Jia Ma Empire knew?" Xiao Yan mumbled suspiciously.

Yao Lao quietly mused before his gaze swept towards the seven colored scroll on the Fairy Doctor's chest. His palm beckoned it and sucked it into

his palm. He then slowly opened it and scanned the different kinds of poison formulas on it before stopping at the last paragraph. Instantly, he shook his head helplessly and handed it over to Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan received the seven colored scroll and swept his gaze over it. His face was also filled with a bitter smile.

“Woeful Poison Body, a strange type of Poison Body that can swallow poison in order to swiftly increase one’s strength. The method to recognize a Woeful Poison Body: At the lower abdomen region, there will be a very tiny seven colored line. This seven colored line will grow with the increase in the intensity of the body’s poison strength. When the seven colored line extends towards the heart, it is the time when the Woeful Poison Body is at its strongest. At the same time, the owner will also feel the pain of tens of thousands of poisons devouring the body.” Below this line, there was a detailed explanation on the damage that the Woeful Poison Body can cause. Amongst them were the things the Yao Lao had described earlier.

“It looks like she already knows about it. If she continues like this, she will sooner or later be a vessel for potent poison.” Xiao Yan waved the seven colored scroll and laughed bitterly.

“Yes.”

Nodding his head and sighing, Xiao Yan returned the scroll to Yao Lao. His eyes stared at the Fairy Doctor and said softly, “Isn’t the Woeful Poison Body immune to all poison? Why is she like that now?”

“The poison’s strength is too intense. She has only temporarily fainted and should wake up very soon.” Yao Lao carelessly said.

“Oh.” Nodding his head, Xiao Yan sat down beside a table in the small house and waited for the Fairy Doctor to wake. Yao Lao simply gave another reminder before he disappeared back into the ring.

Seated by the side of the table, Xiao Yan stared at the Fairy Doctor, shook his head and sighed. Her original aspiration was to become an alchemist. Unfortunately, due to her inborn attributes, she had to take a step back and become a physician. However, with the development of her

constitution, she will likely end up becoming a grandmaster level poison master that many in the Dou Qi continent would fear.

When she reached that stage, it may well be like what she had described that day. There would no longer be anyone who dared to come into contact with her, much less become a friend whom she can have a cordial conversation with. She had originally wanted to be a physician who could save lives but the heavens did not seem to want it. Instead, it allowed this kind young lady to have a Woeful Poison Body that everyone feared.

“Ugh.” Taking in another breath, Xiao Yan lifted his eyes and found the seven colors on the Fairy Doctor’s face slowly diminishing.

“Is she waking up?”

Xiao Yan muttered before he once again sat quietly for another short moment. The Fairy Doctor who was tightly closing her eyes on the bed finally opened them slowly. Her hand moved slightly as the corner of her eyes looked at the black poison. The corner of her mouth gradually curled bitterly. A moment later, the bitterness spread as the Fairy Doctor pulled the quilt over her face. On and off, some sobbing noises were emitted from within the quilt.

“I failed to control myself again... I should really die.”

Seated on the chair and listening to the weak and gentle sobbing sound, Xiao Yan’s feelings became heavier. He slowly stood up and sat beside the bed. His hand gently patting the Fairy Doctor’s body that was hiding behind the quilt.

Feeling that someone was touching her, the quilt was abruptly pulled down. The Fairy Doctor’s eyes widened when she saw the young man sitting by her bedside. Quickly, she rubbed away her tears and softly asked, “When did you come in?”

“I entered when you were still unconscious.” Xiao Yan gently smiled.

Hearing this, the Fairy Doctor’s pretty face slightly changed. She secretly hid the black colored poison that she held tightly in her hand into the quilt. A moment later, she appeared to have suddenly remembered

something and hurriedly asked, "Did you touch me?"

"Uh,, after knowing me for so long, do I look like the type who would take advantage of you when you're in an predicament?" Xiao Yan laughed dryly.

"No, I'm not talking about this... I mean... you didn't touch any part of my body, did you?" The Fairy Doctor waved her hands as she asked.

"No." Xiao Yan shook his head.

Seeing Xiao Yan shake his head, the Fairy Doctor finally sighed in relief. She tugged her legs into her chest and lowered her snow white chin onto her knee as she said softly, "I'm fine. There was some problem with the poison I was making."

Xiao Yan did not speak. His eyes simply stared at the Fairy Doctor. A long while later, he suddenly said softly, "Really... you cannot abandon that thing?"

Hearing the words, the Fairy Doctor initially reacted blankly. Following which, her beautiful body tensed and looked at Xiao Yan with an ugly expression, "You...what do you know?"

"I've read the Seven colored Poison Book. At the same time, I know that you consumed poison." Xiao Yan stared at the pair of vivid eyes as he said.

"Then... you also know about the Woeful Poison Body described in it?" Seeing Xiao Yan nodding his head, the Fairy Doctor gave a sad smile and bit down hard on her red moist lips. She asked, "Then you are also afraid of me, aren't you?"

Staring at the Fairy Doctor who had a tear sliding down her pretty face, Xiao Yan felt emotions stir in his heart. He shook his head and gently patted her head with a warm smile on the corner of his mouth. He said tenderly, "If I was afraid, I would have ran just now. No matter how you put it, we've been through thick and thin together."

When she heard this, the tears in the Fairy Doctor's bright eyes paused as she looked at Xiao Yan with a wide mouth. "Are you really not afraid of me? Will you still dare to eat the food that I cook for you?"

“Anytime.” Xiao Yan said with a face that was full of smiles.

Watching Xiao Yan’s face that held a smile full of warmth, a warm feeling flowed into the Fairy Doctor’s heart. She wiped away the tears from her face, inhaled through her stuffy nose and mumbled in her heart, “Thank you, Xiao Yan. Perhaps, you will be my only friend in the future. Regardless of what happens in the future, as long as you still consider me as your friend, I will always be the Fairy Doctor from Qingshan Town in front of you even if I end up becoming a grand poison master that everyone fears...”

Chapter 156: The Preparations Before Swallowing the Purple Flame

Since the day when the Fairy Doctor fell unconscious after consuming poison, the days in the valley once again returned to leisurely and peaceful days. It was likely that the Fairy Doctor was extremely moved because Xiao Yan did not distance himself after knowing about her condition. Now, she had reached the point where there was nothing she would not talk to Xiao Yan about.

From the looks of it, Xiao Yan's actions which originated from his pity had somehow won the complete trust of the Fairy Doctor. With regards to this, even Xiao Yan felt surprised.

...

Day by day, the peaceful days in the valley slowly passed by. The Purple Flame in Xiao Yan's body grew increasingly strong as Xiao Yan persevered through the tough training under the hot sun. Of course, this speed was in large part due to the support given by the Amethyst Essence. Were it not for this magical item, Xiao Yan would require many years before the Purple Flame would be able to grow to this extent.

It was another tough training session under the hot sun when Xiao Yan slowly opened his eyes. The strong purple flame persisted in his black eyes for a long while before gradually disappearing.

At the end of this training, Xiao Yan did not stand up and hide from the hot sun like he usually did. Instead, he lifted his head and narrowed his eyes as he stared at the distant huge hot sun. He slowly lifted his hand and softly cried, "Appear!"

As his voice died down, a purple colored flame violently rose on Xiao Yan's hand. The current Purple Flame not only covered his hand but his forearm as well, extending until his elbow before it gradually stopped. Lowering his head and seeing his arm covered in purple colored flame, joy rushed onto Xiao Yan's face. He tightened his fist and ferociously struck

against the ground. Following an explosion, numerous crack lines originated from where Xiao Yan's fist came in contact with the ground and continued to spread out until they reached the mountain wall.

"What a strong force." Eyeing the damage caused by one punch, Xiao Yan could not help but gasp.

"It's barely passable but the current strength of the Purple Flame has reached the limit of your control. If you continue training like this, a backlash may soon occur." Yao Lao floated out of the ring, glanced at the arm which was half covered by the Purple Flame and said.

"Indeed, it will soon reach the limit. My control of the Purple Flame in the vortex is obviously not as easy as before. If it is allowed to continue growing, it might try to take over me." Xiao Yan nodded and said.

"Since it's like this..." Yao Lao smiled and whispered, "Then... you will swallow it before it has the chance to bite you."

Lowering his head and looking at the withering flame on his hand, Xiao Yan grinned widely, tilted his head and asked, "When will we do it?"

"Tomorrow afternoon. Today, you will need to prepare some things." Yao Lao replied with a smile.

"What do we need to prepare?"

"Swallowing the Purple Flame and evolving the Qi Method is not as easy as you think. This Purple Flame may be far inferior to a 'Heavenly Flame' but with your current strength as a nine star Dou Zhe, it is a little difficult to successfully swallow it. Thus, you need to prepare two different medicinal pills in order to be ready for the unexpected." Yao Lao laughed.

"Path Protecting Pill and Icy Heart Pill. These two types of pills are tier two medicinal pills. Under normal circumstances, it would be difficult for you to succeed refining them with your strength as a tier one alchemist. But now that you own the Purple Flame, which is much stronger than an ordinary Dou Qi Flame, you have an increased chance of succeeding.

"Path Protecting Pill, as the name suggests, has the effect of protecting your Qi Paths. When you are swallowing the Purple Flame you will need to

move the Purple Flame along the Qi Paths of the 'Flame Mantra'. However, this kind of essence flame is unlike the gentle Dou Qi. It will cause tremendous amounts of damage wherever it passes and since Qi Paths are the most important things in training which means they cannot receive even the slightest bit of damage. Hence, this Path Protecting Pill is something you must make." Yao Lao said in a serious tone.

"Moreover, the nature of the Purple Flame is overbearing and wild. When you swallow it, the wild nature contained in the Purple Flame will begin to influence your mind as you swallow it. If your mind is encroached upon, then your intention of swallowing the flame would naturally be destroyed. Additionally, it might leave you with a phobia that is difficult to overcome. Hence, these two pills are a must when you swallow the Purple Flame."

Seeing Yao Lao's serious manner, Xiao Yan did not dare slight him and hurriedly nodded.

"These are the two formulas for the medicinal pills. The medicinal ingredients that are needed could be gathered in this small valley. On top of it, you will also need one rank two Wood type Monster Core and one rank two Ice type Monster Core." Yao Lao's finger lightly touched Xiao Yan's forehead and transmitted the necessary information into it while he told him the other information.

"One wood and one Ice type rank two Monster Core?"

Xiao Yan stilled upon hearing this but quickly nodded his head helplessly. His current stock only had one rank two Wood type monster core. He had to put in a lot of effort to kill a rank two Magic Beast the last time he was trying to gauge his strength. As for a rank two Ice type Monster Core, he did not have one. In the remaining time, it looked like he may need to enter the Magic Beast Mountain Range to hunt for a Magic Beast with this kind of monster core.

Xiao Yan closed his eyes and recalled the medicinal ingredients needed for the two types of medicinal pills. After that, he took another look at the sky before leaping down from the cliff. He found the Fairy Doctor in the

valley quietly studying the Seven Colored Poison Book and explained the motive for him leaving the valley.

When she heard that Xiao Yan was going out to hunt a rank two Magic Beast, the Fairy Doctor became worried and wanted to go with him. However, she was stopped by Xiao Yan. After all, with his current strength, he could not ensure her safety when facing a rank two Magic Beast.

The Fairy Doctor could only helplessly give up her decision to accompany him when Xiao Yan stopped her. However, she was still worried, prompting her to hand a poison pill that she had meticulously made.

Being very clear of the Fairy Doctor's ability to manufacture poison, Xiao Yan did not decline and carefully kept the black pill. He voiced his thanks and rushed to the mountain wall. Under the Fairy Doctor's watch, his feet released an explosive sound as they stomped on the ground. Like a Roc, his body shot up toward the peak of the valley.

Standing on the peak, Xiao Yan waved at the Fairy Doctor who was at the bottom of the valley. After that, his body shook and the Purple Cloud Wings comfortably opened behind him, spreading bits of purple light under the hot sun.

As Xiao Yan stood at the top of the valley, he lifted his eyes and saw a small outline of the Magic Beast Mountain Range. In the regions that were visible, dark green trees occupied most of his sight. Occasionally, a violent wind would blow from the mountain range, causing the trees to form a green colored wave, presenting a majestic sight.

Xiao Yan lifted his head to glance at the blazing sun and wiped his perspiration. The pair of wings on his back flapped and he leaped over the cliff. As the pair of wings flapped, Xiao Yan borrowed the lift and swiftly flew inside the Magic Beast Mountain Range.

The Magic Beast Mountain Range was extremely vast. Trying to search for a rank two Ice type Magic Beast in this huge expanse of space was still a little difficult. After searching for nearly an hour to no avail, Xiao Yan could only helplessly get Yao Lao to help. Because of his abnormally

strong Spiritual Perception, the ranks of the Magic Beasts within a radius of a kilometer would have a difficult time escaping from his search.

Although Yao Lao had repeated that Xiao Yan would have to rely on himself for everything once he entered the Magic Beast Mountain Range, Yao Lao did not find an excuse to reject him for this current situation. He closed his eyes for a moment before slowly opening them and pointed south saying, "There's a rank two Ice type Magic Beast there but there appears to be some problem. Are you going? If you are not, we can change our location and search again but this will mean we will have to spend some time searching again."

Seeing the direction Yao Lao pointed toward, Xiao Yan flapped his wings and swiftly flew over. At the same time, he threw an 'Energy Recovery Pill' into his mouth and vaguely muttered, "Let's take a look first."

Xiao Yan quickly flew across the ground. He frowned just as he was about to arrive at his destination. Frightened yells were being emitted from the forest below. From the different volumes, it appeared that there were quite a number of people.

"Teacher, is this the place?" Xiao Yan asked uncertainly.

"Ah. There are mercenaries below hunting Magic Beasts but when they were attracting the Magic Beast, it appeared that they mistakenly attracted an extra rank two Ice type Magic Beast. Which in turned caused them to fall into their current state of disorder." Yao Lao's laughter escaped from the ring.

Xiao Yan helplessly shook his head and slowly recalled the pair of wings on his back, turning them into tattoos on his back. He somersaulted in the air and his legs slowly passed through the dense leaves before landing on the branch of one of the large trees. He then swept his gaze below him.

Under Xiao Yan was a somewhat spacious piece of empty land. On it were tens of harried looking mercenaries who were fleeing . Behind these mercenaries were two rank two Magic Beasts which were persistently chasing after them. These mercenaries merely had the strength of a Dou Zhe and naturally could not hold their own against two rank two Magic

Beasts. Hence, the situation below was basically them trying to escape from death.

After carefully scanning these mercenaries, Xiao Yan abruptly noticed that these people all belonged to a single Mercenary Company. Moreover, the Company badge appeared somewhat familiar. It seemed to belong to the Mercenary Company Ka Gang and the others that Xiao Yan had met back then which was: the Bloody Battle Mercenary Company.

“Ahhh...” Just as Xiao Yan was scanning the place, a familiar frightened sharp cry suddenly sounded from the battered group of people below. Xiao Yan stilled and shifted his gaze below. There, he found a young girl among the group who appeared to have tripped over a rock and fell. At that moment, a rank two Magic Beast behind her opened its large mouth and revealed its fangs, viciously pouncing towards her.

Xiao Yan pressed his eyebrows together as he stared at the young girl who gave the loud screech. This young girl was the one called Ling Er who was part of Ka Gang’s small group back then.

With Xiao Yan’s current distance, even if he wanted to save her, he would be too late. Thus, he could only bitterly smile as he shook his head.

Just as the Magic Beast was about to kill Ling Er, an angry yell sounded out, “Beast, get lost!”

Following the yell, a sturdy human figure suddenly shot out from the forested area. His hand carried a huge broadsword and together with the rising dense Dou Qi, violently hacked at the claw of the rank two Magic Beast. Instantly, both of them hurriedly took a step back.

“What?” Seeing that the person who suddenly appeared did not lose in a direct confrontation with a rank two Magic Beast, Xiao Yan immediately let out a shocked gasp.

“Uncle Fei Lei!” The young girl hurriedly called. Upon seeing the man at his prime, a happiness from escaping a close encounter with death surfaced on the young girl’s originally terribly pale face.

“Ling Er, step back.”

The man in his prime called Fei Lei did not turn around. He simply gave an order while he swept his gaze toward the two Magic Beasts that were gathering together because of his presence and involuntarily felt a bitterness in his mouth. With his strength as a two star Dou Shi, he could at the very most handle one rank two Magic Beast.

“Company Leader, what do we do?” A middle aged man walked out from the group of mercenaries and asked. He understood Fei Lei’s level of strength.

“Ka Gang, first reform the formation. Do not panic. Otherwise, we will be separated and conquered by them!” Fei Lei’s deep voice said.

“Uncle Fei Lei, you won’t be able to beat two rank two Magic Beasts on your own.” Ling Er said with panic evident in her voice. She was about to step forward when a long hand grabbed her from behind. At the same time, a lady’s cold voice sounded, “Don’t disturb the Company Leader!”

Being caught by the lady, Ling Er pitifully turned her head and looked at the lady with an incredibly good figure and said, “Qing jie-jie, we can go and help Uncle Fei Lei temporarily hold them off.”

The lady who was being addressed as Qing jie-jie had a tall, lovely body. Her skin was not a jade white color but was more inclined toward the sexier bronze color. A black tight and short leather blouse revealed the protrusion of her chest at a seductive angle. Since the skin tight blouse was short, it only reached her belly button, displaying the smooth and narrow waist, presenting a sight that others yearned for.

The lower body of the woman was similarly covered by a short tight black colored leather skirt. Her long tight legs had a long dagger attached to one of them. The image she presented was like a female leopard in the forest that was filled with the wild characteristics of being strong and vicious.

When men first see this kind of woman who was filled with wild characteristics, their first thought was to tame her, letting this woman who was like a female leopard creep tactfully under them. Of course, this was also a thought that Xiao Yan had when he first saw her. However, the

thought was immediately thrown aside when it was formed. After all, he did not have a sperm filled brain. This long period of tough training had resulted in his restraint reaching a superior level.

“With the current people we have here, we would be killed off, one by one by a rank two Magic Beast if we do not reform our formation. Now, we should listen to the Comapn Leader’s order and reform our formation. You should stop adding to the trouble. If you had not caused a mess before, why would we end up attracting two Magic Beasts? Our friends had almost lost our lives earlier because of this!” The woman who was addressed as Qing jie-jie frowned and softly chided at Ling Er.

Ling Er felt some grievances from being scolded like this but did not dare to say anything as she obediently stood beside the woman.

“Qing Ye, if anything were to happen later, bring Ling Er along and leave first. We will hold them here.” A young man wearing white clothes went over and said.

A pair of wavy eyes glanced at the young man as the woman who was called Qing Ye said faintly, “I won’t leave first without the Comapny Leader’s order. And if we compare our strengths, you are no where near me.”

Hearing this, the young man in white rubbed his nose in embarrassment as he waved at Ling Er who was purposefully displaying a grimace on her face.

Seeing Mu Lan receiving a cold response, Ling Er secretly laughed. If she saw Mu Lan try to curry favor with Qing Ye in the past, she would definitely be secretly unhappy in her heart. However, for some reason, the Mu Lan da-ge that she worshipped in the past could no longer give her the same feeling as before. Instead, occasionally, when she let her imagination run wild, the black figure of a young man would appear for no reason. A young man who was carrying a large black ruler on his back...

“Rumors says that he actually killed Mu She of the Wolf Head Mercenary Company, a strong Dou Zhe that even Uncle Fei Lei would have a hard time over. What a liar, to actually say that he’s only a two star

Dou Zhe...” As her small hand held the hand of Qing Ye, who was by her side, Ling Er recalled the hot news that had spread around Qingshan Town for a whole month. An unknown feeling surfaced within the young girl’s heart.

“Bloody Battle Mercenary Company, in formation! We will help the Company Leader hold off that Ice type rank two Magic Beast!”

When Ling Er was lost in her daydream, Ka Gang had managed to swiftly reorganise the mercenaries. He waved his hand and over ten mercenaries immediately rushed out with great coordination and headed for one of the rank two Magic Beasts that were attacking Fei Lei.

Being surrounded and blocked by a group of weaker mercenaries, the fairly large sized Magic Beast immediately let out a furious roar. Its huge sharp claws violently slashed down, ferociously shooting out an icy force. This force knocked against the shields that the mercenaries held in their hands, forming a thin layer of ice on them. The bone pricking cold caused a few mercenaries to quickly abandon the shields that had turned into ice shields.

“Hold it back! Ground type Dou Zhe to the front, Fire type Dou Zhe attack its weak points!” Watching the Company that had fallen into a disadvantaged position on the first exchange, Ka Gang hurriedly ordered.

After Ka Gang gave the order, the ice type Magic Beast impatiently faced the sky and let out a loud roar. Immediately, a snow white layer of ice quickly spread from under its legs and a white gas would flow up the body of any mercenary who came into contact with the ice layer. The icy temperature almost froze the blood in their bodies.

The formation that took a lot of effort to reorganize was easily weakened to a vulnerable state under this attack by the rank two Magic Beast.

After breaking through the formation, the eyes of the ice type Magic Beast turned red as it began its killing spree. A few mercenaries who could not dodge in time were immediately smashed by it and threw up blood as they frantically retreated,

“Company Leader, we cannot hold it off any longer!” Seeing the tyrannical massacre of the rank two Magic Beast, Ka Gang’s face turned utterly white as he shouted to Fei Lei who was having a difficult fight with the other rank two Magic Beast.

The large sword in Fei Lei’s hand ferociously forced the rank two magic beast to pull back before he also took a couple of steps back. Under everyone’s gaze, he suddenly lifted his head, faced a tall tree and cried, “Friend. All of us make a living in the Magic Beast Mountain Range. If it is convenient, I hope that you can extend your help. The Bloody Battle Mercenary Company will be eternally grateful!”

Seeing Fei Lei’s action, the surrounding Bloody Battle mercenaries looked at each other in shock. Then they shifted their gaze to the spot where Fei Lei was looking at,

Not long after Fei Lei’s voice was sent out, a response came from the dense woods, “I can help you kill that rank two Ice type Magic Beast. But if there is a monster core in its body...”

“It belongs to you!” Hearing this, joy struck Fei Lei as he called out without any hesitation.

“Hehe, Company Leader is really forthright. Some time ago, I was helped by some members of your compnay. Today, I shall repay the favor.” Following a light laugh, the leaves in the forest swayed. A black shadow swiftly pounced down like an eagle.

“Ding!”

Qing Ye clenched her silver teeth as she clashed against the Ice type Magic Beast that was coming after them. The enormous strength immediately caused her pretty face to turn white as she hurriedly retreated.

After pushing Qing Ye back, the Magic Beast let out a menacing loud roar and once again violently pounced forward.

Just as Qing Ye was planning to once again stake her life and clash with the beast, a black shadow suddenly shot over from midair and landed

heavily on the ground. A violent sound rang out, scattering dust throughout the area.

As the dust slowly settled, a skinny young man carrying a strange looking huge black colored ruler on his back appeared in front of everyone's eyes.

"Xiao Yan?" Ka Gang let out an involuntary gasp. With the unique huge ruler as a symbol, Xiao Yan was recognizable anywhere.

"Haha, Uncle Ka Gang, I hope that you have been well." Xiao Yan slowly turned his head. His gaze first swept across Qing Ye behind him and then smiled at Ka Gang by her side.

"Alright, we'll reminisce later. First, we need to get rid of this beast."

Xiao Yan waved to Ka Gang whose face was filled with an unrestrained joy. Turning around, he faced the huge rank two Magic Beast in front of him and let out an involuntary smile. He slowly lifted his leg and then stomped it on the ground. Following an explosion, Xiao Yan's body turned into a black shadow and appeared on the left side of the magic beast like lightning. His hand tightly held the hilt of the ruler and drew it in a sudden motion. The Heavy Xuan Ruler left his back and carried an intense wind pressure as it smashed heavily on top of the head of the Magic Beast. Instantly, the huge force threw the huge body of the Magic Beast up. It smashed through quite a few trees before coming to a slow stop.

"Bravo!" Fei Lei whose eyes had been looking over, saw Xiao Yan's frightening move and could not help but praise him.

Standing behind Xiao Yan, Qing Ye involuntarily covered her moist red small mouth with her hand when she saw Xiao Yan knock the rank two Magic Beast over ten meters away, much like how one would hit a rubber ball. Her face was filled with shock. It was difficult to imagine that this skinny young man actually possessed such incredible strength. Really... a person cannot be judged by his appearance.

Not far away, Ling Er's gaze was entirely focused on Xiao Yan ever since his appearance. Seeing his incredible strength, a strange glint immediately flashed in her charming eyes.

“Roar!”

In the distance, the Ice Magic Beast that was sent flying once again got up. The humiliation of being sent flying caused it to roar angrily. All over its body, an icy air began to shroud it. It opened its huge mouth and ten sharp icicles shot toward Xiao Yan.

Seeing the icicles shooting toward him, Xiao Yan stabbed the Heavy Xuan Ruler in front of him. Following numerous clanging sound, it managed to completely block the wave of icicles.

Xiao Yan held the Heavy Xuan Ruler tightly as he glanced at the ruler's body where a layer of ice was being formed. He smiled faintly and a purple colored flame gradually rose on his palm. He lightly rubbed the ruler surface and melted all the thin ice on it.

“Roar!”

Seeing that the icicle attack was useless, the Magic Beast once again faced the sky and roared angrily. All of its hair straightened while an icy white vapor surrounded its entire body. A moment later, the mist solidified into a layer of snow white ice armor. The ice armor covered the entirety of the Magic Beast, giving it the appearance of an ice carving under sunlight.

After being covered by the ice armor, the Magic Beast widened its four legs and charged at Xiao Yan like a tank.

Xiao Yan slowly steadied his breath as he lifted his eye to watch the Magic Beast charging over with an explosive force. His hands released the heavy ruler and tightened into a fist. A purple colored flame rose from it and encompassed half of his arm.

After lowering his head and glancing at the ascending flame in his hand, Xiao Yan raised his head and observed the Magic Beast approaching. At this moment, a gust of cold wind, caused by the ice armor on the beast's body, carried forth a large amount of pressure as it charged toward Xiao Yan.

Letting out his breath, Xiao Yan stomped heavily on the ground and his

body shot out like an arrow released from a bow. Under everyone's stunned gaze, he chose to meet the Magic Beast head on.

"This guy... is he crazy?" Seeing Xiao Yan's action, everyone present mumbled in shock.

"Octane Blast!"

Just as the two sides were about to crash into each other, Xiao Yan lightly called out in his heart. The fist that was covered in the Purple Flame suddenly emitted a sharp explosive sound. A moment later, it carried a frightening force and smashed viciously into the Magic Beast's Head.

Almost instantly after they made contact, the ice armor on the Magic Beast was melted away by Xiao Yan's Purple Flame, allowing a large hole that exposed the Magic Beast's head inside.

"Bang!"

Accompanied by the Purple Flame, the fist smashed heavily onto the Magic Beast head. A brief silence later, Xiao Yan's fist borrowed the heat from the Purple Flame and together with a muffled sound, created a hole in the Magic Beast's head.

A depressing noise sounded in the vast forest. Half of Xiao Yan's arm appeared to have entered the Magic Beast's head and fresh blood trailed along his arm as it dripped down, finally landing in the somewhat quiet forest to make a strange soft sound,

Indifferently watching the Magic Beast, whose bloody red eyes were still open, Xiao Yan let out a soft sigh. He slowly withdrew his arm, took out a cloth and wiped the blood off his hand.

As Xiao Yan's hand withdrew, the rank two Magic Beast which had forced tens of the members of the Bloody Battle Mercenary Company to flee in all directions, finally fell to the ground under everyone's stunned gaze.

Chapter 157: Getting the Monster Core

As he eyed the fallen Magic Beast beside him, Xiao Yan threw aside the cloth in his hand that was filled with blood. After which, he flipped his hand and a dagger appeared. Squatting down, he cut open the Magic Beast's head while ignoring everyone and slowly began searching within it.

After a few more cuts, Xiao Yan's eyebrows began to be pressed together and he shook his head helplessly. He wiped off the blood on the dagger and kept it. Finally, he stood up and shrugged his shoulders at those who was watching him. "It looks like I'm unlucky. There's nothing at all."

Hearing Xiao Yan's words, everyone gradually began to recover from their shock. Staring at Xiao Yan's empty hands, Ka Gang could only shake his head regretfully. He then waved his hand and shouted, "Everyone, let's first help the Company Leader finish off the other Magic Beast."

Upon hearing Ka Gang's shout, all the members of the Bloody Battle Mercenary Company quickly gripped the weapon in their hands and began swarming toward Fei Lei's battlefield and began to attack the Magic Beast as a group under Fei Lei's command.

Carrying the heavy ruler, Xiao Yan leaned against a tree trunk. He chewed grass in his mouth and lowered his head to see the abrasions on his fist. His eyes were full of excitement. Although he only managed to defeat the rank two Magic Beast in one blow because of his elemental advantage, the strength of the Purple Flame had far exceeded Xiao Yan's expectation. If this happened during another time, he could at the very most only injure a rank two Magic Beast after he used 'Octane Blast'. Killing it would still be impossible.

Xiao Yan slid his finger over the storage ring and retrieved an 'Energy Recovery Pill'. He threw it in his mouth without anyone noticing and swallowed with a slight tremble of his throat.

"Ugh, if this lousy Qi Method still doesn't evolve, I won't even be able to afford consuming 'Energy Recovery Pills'." Xiao Yan helplessly whispered as he felt his body gradually recover its Dou Qi.

While the bored Xiao Yan was leaning against the tree trunk, two beautiful shadows were slowly headed at him from a short distance away.

“Hey, Xiao Yan, are you alright?”

A young lady’s lovely and clear voice caused Xiao Yan to lift his head lazily. He carelessly glanced at Ling Er before resting it on the other lady with the demon like figure for a while. Finally, he withdrew his gaze lazily. When faced with this young lady who had given him the impression of being unruly, Xiao Yan had little intention of paying any attention to her. Hence he said in an indifferent voice, “I’m fine.”

Being treated indifferently by Xiao Yan, Ling Er’s face became somewhat bright red. She opened her moist and small red mouth, looking as though she wanted to speak but was unable to. She was unable to find any words to ease the atmosphere; it appeared that she knew what kind of impression she left on him.

“Your palm is bleeding. Do you need to bandage it?” Seeing the gloomy atmosphere, the female with the devilish figure could only helplessly open her mouth to speak. Instantly, the cool and crisp voice sounded beside Xiao Yan’s ears.

Xiao Yan lifted his gaze and scrutinized this lady with quite a good appearance. He swept his gaze over her body and slightly shook his head. In a similarly helpless voice, he said, “There’s no need. I’m fine.”

The similar indifferent manner Xiao Yan displayed much like he did before caused Qing Ye to be slightly shocked. It was not that she was vain but with her stunning appearance, she had seldom received such treatment. However, she was also a proud person. When she saw Xiao Yan shake his head, rejecting, she did not continue to inquire. Thus, the atmosphere between the three of them once again returned to its depressing state.

The gloomy atmosphere continued for a while before it was finally interrupted by the celebratory cry from within the forest. The three of them raised their heads and found that the Magic Beast that was originally putting up a tough fight with Fei Lei was finally defeated by the combined

strength of everyone. No wonder they were so excited.

Leaving the Magic Beast carcass aside, Fei Lei instructed a few mercenaries to search for the Monster Core and led Ka Gang and the others, who were laughing together, toward Xiao Yan. The unrestrained laughter frightened the birds away from the forest. “Ha ha. Brother Xiao Yan, I’ve heard about you, but never had the luck to see you in person. Thank you very much for today.”

Xiao Yan nodded his head with a smile. He greeted Ka Gang first before smiling at this strong middle aged man who appeared to be a forthright person. “How can I have any good reputation in Qingshan Town?”

“Ha ha. Despite being so young, you were able to kill that crafty Mu She with your own hands. Your reputation is far from being inferior. At the very least, no one in my Bloody Battle Mercenary Company could be compared to you.” Fei Lei sized up Xiao Yan and could not help but sigh to himself as he shook his head. After seeing Xiao Yan fight just now, it appeared that the rumors of him killing Mu She were true. He could not figure out just how this person trained. How could he be so ridiculously strong in spite of being younger than twenty years of age?

Smiling carelessly, Xiao Yan raised his head and looked at the sky as he helplessly said, “ I’m sorry. There was no rank two Ice type Monster Core in the body of that Magic Beast. Therefore, I’ll have to continue searching and won’t be able to chat with all of you.”

As he spoke, Xiao Yan replaced the Heavy Xuan Ruler which was in his hand onto his back as he prepared to once again enter the forest to search for a target.

“I’m really sorry that you gained nothing for your effort. If you do not mind, why don’t you take the Monster Core of the other Magic Beast? It’s a ground type one.” Fei Lei waved his hand and expressed his apologies.

“Forget it. I only need an Ice type rank two Magic Core. You can keep that thing.” Waving his hand with a smile, Xiao Yan turned around and headed toward the interior of the dense forest.

“Wait!”

A cool sweet voice of a woman suddenly sounded from behind him, causing Xiao Yan to halt his footsteps and turn around doubtfully to face Qing Ye.

“Do you have a great need for a rank two Ice type Magic Core?” Qing Ye asked with her eyebrows slightly standing.

“Yes, I need it soon.”

Hearing this, Qing Ye hesitated for a moment before reaching out her hand and gradually retrieving the pendant from her long neck. One end of the pendant was hidden within Qing Ye’s skin tight clothing and as she gently pulled, the pendant was pulled out in its entirety. At the end of the pendant hung a round white colored ice pearl.

“This is a monster core from a rank two Magic Beast Icy Snow Snail. Since you helped our Bloody Battle Mercenary Company once, treat it as a reward.” Qing Ye touched the beautiful white colored Magic Core, seemingly unwilling to part with it. Then she threw it towards Xiao Yan and out of instinct, Xiao Yan reached his hand out and caught the milk colored Monster core. The part of his hand that caught it felt both warm and cool. Moreover, the pendant had a faint body fragrance remaining, perhaps a result of having remained on the skin of a woman for a long time.

“Qing Ye...” Seeing Qing Ye’s action, Fei Lei could not help but shout. After musing, he could only helplessly say, “Since you are willing, then do as you please. But this is your personal item. Once we return, I will find something to compensate you. After all, these are the company rules.”

“There’s no need. If he had not intervened and helped, we would at least have lost half of our members here.” Qing Ye said with a smile as she shook her head.

“It really is a rank two Ice type Monster Core.” After sensing the energy of the Monster Core in his hand, a joyful smile appeared on Xiao Yan’s face. He blatantly kept the monster core and lifted his head to eye Qing Ye’s exquisite and pretty face. He smiled and said, “Thank you very much. But this is yours and I should not let you lose out. How about...” After

thinking with a frown for a moment, Xiao Yan flipped his hand and a jade bottle appeared in his hand. He then tossed it to Qing Ye and said with a bright smile, “There are five ‘Energy Recovery Pills’ in there which can help you quickly recover your Dou Qi in times of danger. If we were to compare prices, it should not lose to your rank two Monster Core... Consider it a fair trade.”

Qing Ye did not originally intend to accept anything from the other party but when the words ‘Energy Recovery Pill’ entered her ear, her pretty face became blank. She quickly reached out her hand and carefully caught the jade bottle. When she opened it, surprise filled her face, “It is a medicinal pill?”

Hearing this, Fei Lei and the others around her were also moved. In this kind of place, they could seldom see a medicinal pill that originated from an alchemist. Thus, when they saw that Xiao Yan could take out five ‘Energy Recovery Pills’, they were all shocked.

“This young man seems to have an impressive background. Seeing this style of spending money, it appeared that he was a young master that had left home to come out and gain experience. That Mu She was indeed quite unlucky.” Upon seeing the jade bottle in Qing Ye’s hand, Fei Lei could not help but quietly say in his heart.

“Everyone, thank you very much. I still have some urgent matters so I won’t be able to stay any longer. Goodbye.”

With the Monster Core in his hand, Xiao Yan was anxious to return back and refine the two medicinal pills needed for him to swallow the Purple Flame. He immediately faced Fei Lei and cupped his hands together before stomping off the ground and swiftly shooting into the dense forest. Gradually, he disappeared from everyone’s sight.

Watching Xiao Yan slowly disappearing into the dense and dark forest, Fei Lei could not help but let out a sigh. He laughed bitterly, “I had wanted to ask Xiao Yan to join our Bloody Battle Mercenary Company but seeing his generous trade, I did not have the face to open my mouth.”

“Let’s go. Stop thinking such ridiculous thoughts. With his talent, he

would not stay in our small Mercenary Company. If I guess correctly, it is likely that he has come to the Magic Beast Mountain Range to train. With his training talent and calculating mind, the vast world is the stage where he can display his talent. For us... we should just focus on being insignificant mercenaries. Maybe in twenty years time, when he returns to Qingshan Town, he might have become a Da Dou Shi or Dou Ling.” Qing Ye kept the jade bottle, turned around and said in a faint voice.

“Haha, that’s true.”

Fei Lei shook his head in a manner that appeared to mock himself. He waved his hand and led everyone into loudly singing the song of triumphant return as they carried the carcass of the two Magic Beasts back to Qingshan town. Although they did not possess the talent Xiao Yan had, they as small flies, also had their comfortable lives.

After entering the dense forest and hurriedly dashing for some time, Xiao Yan finally came to a stop. His back trembled slightly and the Purple Cloud Wings gradually opened. The Dou Qi in his body circulated for a few times before finally pouring into the pair of wings on his back.

Instantly, Xiao Yan’s body slowly floated up. The pair of wings flapped once again and his body broke free of the bounds of the forest and flew into the blue sky. He took a moment to locate his bearings before he extended his wings and hurriedly flew toward the direction of the small valley.

During the flight journey, Xiao Yan consumed three ‘Energy Recovery Pills’ before he gradually found the small valley that was covered by a dense fog. He braced himself and broke through the thick fog and flew into the small valley. When he was about to land on the ground, the pair of wings trembled and transformed into tattoos on Xiao Yan’s shoulders.

After having been through a tough battle, Xiao Yan involuntarily let out a sigh as he once again returned to this peaceful valley. He quickly strode toward the straw house in the valley and found the anxiously waiting Fairy Doctor. When she saw Xiao Yan came back in one piece, the weight in the Fairy Doctor’s heart was similarly relieved.

After greeting the Fairy Doctor, Xiao Yan hurriedly gathered all the necessary medicinal ingredients for the two types of pills. Once finished, he carried the medicinal ingredients and leaped into the cave on the mountain wall, preparing to refine the two important medicinal pills for the swallowing of the Purple Flame.

Chapter 158: Refine Pills! Qi Method Evolution!

Seated with his legs crossed in the cave, Xiao Yan extracted the Medicinal Cauldron from within the storage ring and placed it gently in front of him. He then placed all the necessary medicinal ingredients needed to refine the 'Path Protecting Pill' and the 'Icy Heart Pill' beside him. After he carefully checked everything again, he finally let out a relaxed breath.

Seeing that Xiao Yan was about to start the fire to refine the medicinal pills, Yao Lao slowly and unsteadily floated out from the ring. He landed on a huge rock, folded his arms and watched Xiao Yan work with a smile.

Xiao Yan glanced once at Yao Lao before slowly closing his eyes. Once again, his mind brought forth the two medicinal formulas Yao Lao had imparted him with and rechecked the quantity of each ingredient needed and the overall fire temperature. After revising them once, he began to open his eyes slowly as he gently rubbed his hands together. He then placed his palm on the fire outlet and his mind began to slowly sink into his body, carefully retrieving the purple colored flame from within the center of the vortex.

The purple colored flame was surrounded by Dou Qi as it swiftly passed through his Qi Paths and palm before entering the medicinal cauldron.

When the Purple Flame rushed into the medicinal cauldron, a soft 'bang' sounded. The Purple colored flame rose within the medicinal cauldron and began to burn.

Through the glass on the surface of the medicinal cauldron, Xiao Yan's eyes could see the randomly leaping purple colored flame. When the ice cold medicinal cauldrons temperature slowly rose, Xiao Yan tilted his head and smiled at Yao Lao. His expression once again became serious as his Spiritual Perception exited his body, entering the medicinal cauldron through his hand and successfully controlled the untamed Purple Flame.

“You can begin.”

Seeing the increasingly calm Purple Flame in the medicinal cauldron, Yao Lao nodded his head with a smile on his face as he quietly commented in his heart, “This brat is becoming familiar with the use of Spiritual Perception. He was actually able to suppress the flame’s temperature so quickly.”

Nodding his head slightly, Xiao Yan’s hand habitually grabbed a dark green plant from beside him. This plant was called Evergreen Flower. The warm energy contained within the leaves would make it very suitable to protect his Qi Paths.

Xiao Yan’s eyes glanced at the Evergreen Flower in his hand. His hand paused for a moment before throwing it into the interior of the medicinal cauldron.

Just as the Evergreen Flower entered the medicinal cauldron, the surging Purple Flame pounced on it. In an instant, its dark green leaves swiftly became brown. At this stage, Xiao Yan’s Spiritual Perception slowly suppressed the Purple Flame’s temperature with quite a bit of effort. The faint flame seed carried a temperature that was neither cold nor hot as it gradually grilled the Evergreen Flower that was floating in it.

As this method of grilling continued, drops of green colored liquid began to form on the surface of the Evergreen Flower leaves. Following the increase in the amount of liquid that formed, the leaf quickly shrunk. When the last drop of green colored liquid from the Evergreen Flower was forced out, the body of the Evergreen Flower turned into black soot and sank to the bottom of the medicinal cauldron.

“Ah... not bad. With your outstanding Spiritual Perception, even some tier two alchemists cannot compare to you.” Seeing that Xiao Yan succeeded on his first step, Yao Lao could not help but praise with a smile.

Smiling, Xiao Yan beckoned with his hand, sucking out the green colored liquid from within the medicinal cauldron. Finally, he carefully poured it into a jade bottle, storing it as it awaited to be merged with the other ingredients.

After obtaining the energy liquid from the Evergreen flower, Xiao Yan refined three other different colored liquids and a pale green powder that was obtained from grilling the Dark Cloud Spirit Fruit.

When refining these few types of medicinal powders, Xiao Yan destroyed twelve rare medicinal herbs despite his outstanding Spiritual Perception. This was because it was his first time creating this kind of medicinal pill and trying to grasp the necessary flame control and ingredient quantity. If the valley did not possess a large supply of medicinal ingredients, he might have faced the embarrassing situation of exhausting his medicinal ingredients.

Seated on a rock, Yao Lao quietly watched Xiao Yan refine medicine. When the latter managed to refine all the necessary medicinal ingredients, he nodded his head. Xiao Yan may have damaged quite a number of medicinal ingredients during this period of time but this number of failures was quite good considering that he was refining these medicines for the first time.

After refining all the ingredients, Xiao Yan let out a long breath. He took an 'Energy Recovery Pill' from the storage ring, threw it in his mouth and crossed his legs as he recovered the Dou Qi in his body.

Observing Xiao Yan's manner, Yao Lao could only helplessly shake his head. No wonder Xiao Yan was going crazy with his desire to evolve his Qi Method. After only refining for a short while, the Dou Qi in his body was already extremely exhausted. The current medicinal pill that he was refining was only tier two. If he was to refine a tier three or even tier four medicine, Xiao Yan might have to put a handful of 'Energy Recovery Pills' in his mouth in order to avoid failing due to his Dou Qi being exhausted. After crossing his legs and recovering for a long while, Xiao Yao finally opened his eyes. He watched Yao Lao's helpless expression and could only smile bitterly. He then placed all the different refined ingredients beside him and flicked his palm. A snow white Monster Core that was emitting cold air appeared in his hand.

Watching the rank two Ice type Monster Core, Xiao Yan slowly let out a breath. He flicked his finger and accurately shot the Monster Core into the

medicinal cauldron. At the same time, Xiao Yan's palm quickly touched the fire outlet of the medicinal cauldron. He used his Spiritual Perception to suddenly release the suppressed temperature of the Purple Flame. Immediately, the Purple Flame began to rise with a crying sound and spread throughout the interior of the cauldron.

Within the soaring Purple Flame, the rank two Ice type Monster Core began to release an icy cold stream as it did its best to struggle against the heat, hoping to avoid being destroyed.

The Purple Flame and the icy fog started to be locked in a stalemate within the medicinal cauldron. Sheets of white colored fog began to seep through the cover of the medicinal cauldron and continued to spread throughout the surrounding area.

Lifting his eyes to see the increasingly thick white gas, Yao Lao lightly waved his sleeves. A ferocious force swept the white gas out. Immediately, the cave returned to its clear state. However, the current Xiao Yan did not have the luxury of noticing all this; all of his attention was placed on the stalemate between the Purple Flame and the ice type Monster Core.

The Purple Flame in him continued to be poured into the medicinal cauldron while the Ice type Monster Core did not wish to be outdone. It continued releasing cold air, struggling to escape its fate of being destroyed.

The stalemate continued until Xiao Yan swallowed another 'Energy Recovery Pill'. Although the Ice type Monster Core contained a vast amount of Ice energy, there was no reinforcement for the energy. Hence, under the relentless grilling of the Purple Flame, the Ice type Monster Core's cold air barrier was finally broken.

Following the breaking of the ice air barrier, the Purple Flame released an excited writhing sound. It pounced from all directions and surrounded the Ice type Monster Core before beginning to calcine it.

As the flame calcined it for a long time, numerous crack lines gradually appeared on the Ice type Monster Core's hard surface. After a while, a clear cracking noise sounded and the surface of the Monster Core turned

into ashes and sunk. When the ashes settled at the bottom of the cauldron, a small ball of snow white paste like energy appeared and drifted within the medicinal cauldron.

When he saw this white colored energy paste ball appear, joy finally surfaced on Xiao Yan's tensed face. After using the Purple Flame to grill for a little longer, he finally sucked it out and stored it properly within a jade bottle.

After refining the energy from within the Monster Core, Xiao Yan swiftly grabbed the few refined ingredients in front of him and poured all of them into the medicinal cauldron.

The Purple Flame surrounded the few ingredients in the cauldron and began to calcine them in a very intense manner.

As the intense flame continued to burn, the different colored medicinal ingredients began to slowly fuse. The liquid and powder began to merge and slowly rolled around in the flame. As time went on, an initial medicinal pill shape began to slowly and faintly appear within the medicinal cauldron.

The current medicinal pill's surface was extremely uneven, on its surface, the luster was made up of patches of green and purple. When one looked at it, it appeared to be a strange looking object that was covered with edges, totally unlike the roundness and the luster of a fully formed medicinal pill.

Seeing this initial medicinal pill, the heavy weight in Xiao Yan's heart was finally lifted. At this stage, he had completed ninety percent of the refining process. The remaining step was to condense the pill.

Carrying the refined Monster Core energy in his hand, Xiao Yan tilted his head and eyed Yao Lao. Seeing that he nodded his head with a smile, Xiao Yan took in a gentle breath and poured the Monster Core energy into the medicinal cauldron without any hesitation.

Just as the white colored paste like energy entered the medicinal cauldron, it was controlled by Xiao Yan into covering the initial medicinal pill. After which, the mix of pill and energy began to slowly rotate. At the

same time, Xiao Yan's Spiritual Perception hurriedly suppressed the temperature of the Purple Flame, containing it to a point where it was neither too mild nor too hot as it gradually broiled the medicinal pill that was covered by the energy from the Monster Core.

The final step of condensing the pill took nearly half an hour. The energy from the Monster Core was grilled into the medicinal pill slowly by the flame. At this moment, Xiao Yan suddenly recalled his Spiritual Perception that he was using to suppress the Purple Flame. Immediately, the Purple Flame turbulently poured forth and carried a wild temperature as it surrounded the medicinal pill in an instant.

The Purple Flame was suppressed again soon after it was given full freedom and was quickly brought back down to its lowest temperature. As the Purple Flame slowly retreated, a jade white round pill appeared in an attention grabbing manner within the medicinal cauldron.

Seeing this jade white medicinal pill. Xiao Yan involuntarily opened his mouth and grinned. He beckoned with his hand and sucked it from the medicinal cauldron. Following which, he quickly took out a jade bottle by his side and stored the pill in it.

Xiao Yan's hand pulled away from the medicinal cauldron and the Purple Flame within it quickly disappeared. A moment later, the hot medicinal cauldron quieted down.

Shaking the medicinal pill within the bottle, Xiao Yan gently inhaled the fragrance released from the mouth of the bottle. His face could not help but revel in it. A long while later, he finally laughed to Yao Lao by his side, "The Path Protection Pill is a success!"

"Yes, not bad. Although there were some small errors during the process, your performance was quite good..." Yao Lao praised Xiao Yan with a nod. He glanced at the medicinal ingredients meant for the 'Icy Heart Pill' on the floor and smiled, "Rest for a little while. Next, you will need to refine the 'Icy Heart Pill'. With that success, I believe you should be able to damage fewer medicinal ingredients this time."

Nodding his head, Xiao Yan carefully put away the Path Protecting Pill'.

Once again, he took out another 'Energy Recovery Pill' and swallowed it. Afterwards, he closed his eyes and waited for the Dou Qi in his body to recover.

Half an hour later, Xiao Yan slowly opened his eyes. He had finally recovered to his peak condition. Seeing the medicinal cauldron in front of him, he took in a deep breath and extended his hand; once again he began to refine a pill.

Things went according to what Yao Lao had said, with the prior success from refining the Path Protecting Pill', the refining process for the 'Icy Heart Pill' had become much smoother. Other than the choppiness originating from the different flame intensities for the different medicinal ingredients, the remaining steps were extremely natural and unforced. The refining process satisfied even the extremely picky Yao Lao. From this, it could be seen just how outstanding Xiao Yan's performance was.

Two hours after the start of the refining process.

At that moment, Xiao Yan's face appeared slightly exhausted. However, there was an even greater feeling of excitement and joy. This was due to the two jade bottles he tightly held in his hands; contained within these transparent jade bottles were white and green round sleek pills that were naughtily rolling around.

Seeing Xiao Yan's tired expression, Yao Lao glanced at the already dark sky outside and smiled, "The time taken to refine the pills was approximately what I anticipated. Due to the strong sun during daytime, the Purple Flame would have increased strength. If you were to swallow the Purple Flame during that time, it would increase the difficulty of doing so. Hence, now is the most suitable time to swallow the Purple Flame. So? Can you still persevere?"

Xiao Yan rubbed his temples and smiled. "Of course. I'm only slightly tired, staying up for the entire night should not be a problem."

"Hehe, that's good." Yao Lao smilingly nodded. Voicing his thoughts, he asked, "How many 'Energy Recovery Pills' do you have with you?"

"Eighteen." Xiao Yan's finger probed the ring before replying.

“That should be sufficient. After the swallowing process begins later, you should immediately consume one whenever you feel your Dou Qi is insufficient. It would not be anything fun if you suddenly find your Dou Qi exhausted at any time.” Yao Lao seriously said.

“Yes.” Xiao Yan nodded his head heavily. Naturally, he did not dare fool around with his life.

“Alright, we’ll now see the result. To be honest, I am also interested in seeing how much ‘Flame Mantra’ can evolve with this Purple Flame.” Yao Lao released his breath as he said in a manner that suggested he was looking forward to the result.

“In any case, it cannot directly leap to the Xuan Class.” Regarding this, Xiao Yan still understood his limits. Although the strength of the Purple Flame was good there was still a huge gap between it and a ‘Heavenly Flame’.

“Naturally, I know that it is impossible to reach the Xuan Class. The jump between each class for a Qi Method is like the distance between the earth and sky. The Purple Flame may be able to evolve Mantra to a different level within the same class but if it wants to evolve it to a different class... difficult!” Yao Lao rolled his eyes and scolded with a smile.

Xiao Yan bitterly laughed but did not continue speaking. He sat crossed legged and closed his eyes. After he deepened his spirit and quietly sat for a moment, his eyes suddenly opened. Within his black eyes, a brilliant light flashed past. When the brilliant light in his eyes to diminish, Xiao Yan tilted his head and faced Yao Lao.

“Yes, begin. It’s time.” Noticing Xiao Yan looking over, Yao Lao smiled and gently nodded.

Nodding his head with great force, Xiao Yan’s gaze swept across the two jade bottles in front of him. After which, he closed his eyes and his mind sunk into his body.

Under the control of his mind, the vortex in his lower abdomen suddenly began spinning at a high speed. Following its increased rotation speed,

clusters of Purple Flame in the vortex were thrown out.

The Purple Flame that was thrown out seemed to be puzzled. Why had the partner that was working with it days before suddenly chasing it out? The Purple Flame that was thrown outside slowly gathered all the Purple Flame that had been thrown out of the vortex, finally forming an intense ball of Purple Flame.

Just as the Purple Flame attempted to charge into the vortex without thought, the surging pale yellow Dou Qi within the vortex came gushing outwards from the vortex and encompassed the Purple Flame within it. Under the control of Xiao Yan's mind, the surrounding pale yellow Dou Qi pulled the Purple Flame and began to move along the fixed Qi Paths dictated by 'Flame Mantra'.

When the Dou Qi surrounded the Purple Flame, the latter felt danger. Instantly, it began to angrily attempt to shoot out of the surrounding Dou Qi energy. Each time they struck, they would burn a large amount of Dou Qi energy into nothing. However, an unceasing supply of Dou Qi from the vortex continued to be emitted. Regardless of how the Purple Flame burned, it could not escape being trapped by the Dou Qi.

When Xiao Yan's Dou Qi surrounded the Purple Flame, he completely lost control of it. However, it did not bother him. He focused all his attention into controlling the Dou Qi, pulling the Purple Flame into becoming a long and thin flame before swiftly moving it into the Qi pathways for training 'Flame Mantra'.

Just as the Purple Flame that was encompassed by Dou Qi entered the Qi Paths that was predetermined, Xiao Yan's body trembled violently. Numerous small drops of cold perspiration continued to appear on his forehead. Like dripping water, it flowed along Xiao Yan's face and smashed against the mountain rock with a tapping noise.

Xiao Yan clenched his teeth. The Qi Paths in his body emitted a twitching like terrible pain that almost caused his face to grimace. He did not expect that even with Dou Qi as the initial protection, the pain caused by the Purple Flame would be this intense.

“Consume the Path Protecting Pill!”

When Xiao Yan was clenching his teeth and enduring, Yao Lao's soft order suddenly sounded in his ears.

Hearing the order, Xiao Yan's hand did not hesitate as he grabbed a small jade bottle in front of him, poured out the jade white pill and threw it into his mouth.

Once the 'Path Protecting Pill' entered into his mouth, it began transforming into a warm and smooth current. It swiftly rolled into his throat and entered his body. Finally, under the control of Xiao Yan's mind, it swiftly covered all the veins that the flame must pass through when using 'Flame Mantra' with a layer of faint white colored energy membrane.

Although this layer of white colored energy membrane was extremely thin, the effect that it brought was very notable. Not long after he swallowed the Path Protecting Pill', Xiao Yan's tensed muscles began to gradually relax. His distorted face was also slowly becoming normal. There was still some occasional searing pain that was emitted from his Qi Paths, but this was entirely within the parameters that he could endure.

The gradual relief from the intense pain caused Xiao Yan to sigh in his heart. He could not imagine whether the Qi Paths in his body could continue to absorb and contain Dou Qi if he did not have the help from the Path Protecting Pill'. It might be that after the Purple Flame had completely passed through his Qi Paths, he would become a real cripple.

“It is indeed true that having an elder at home is like having a treasure.” Xiao Yan happily mumbled in his heart. The position Yao Lao held in Xiao Yan's heart instantly sped higher.

With the help from the Path Protecting Pill', Xiao Yan was much more relaxed. Although his Dou Qi was consumed at an incredible rate under the burning of the Purple Flame, the help given from his uninterrupted swallowing of 'Energy Recovery Pills' allowed him to barely maintain an equilibrium.

Everything in his body proceeded in an orderly manner under the tense

atmosphere. Until now, Xiao Yan did not find anything wrong but he continued to remain alert. As Yao Lao had said before, other than the danger of one's Qi Paths being burnt during the swallowing process, one's mind would also be slowly corrupted by the wild instincts of the Purple Flame, causing one to lose control.

Bearing in mind Yao Lao's words in his heart, Xiao Yan solemnly kept guard of his mind, not daring to allow even the slightest mistake.

After Xiao Yan slowly moved the Purple Flame encompassed by Dou Qi for half the Qi Path route of the 'Flame Mantra', Xiao Yan's expression gradually became serious. He had begun to vaguely feel that as the swallowing process became more intense while threads of faint agitation were slowly climbing into his mind.

Feeling that his mind was changing, Xiao Yan heart immediately grew fearful. He did not require Yao Lao's reminder as he retrieved the 'Icy Heart Pill' from in front of him and threw it into his mouth.

Once the 'Icy Heart Pill' entered his body, an icy bone cutting feeling slowly penetrated from his throat region. His mind felt this icy cold feeling and shivered slightly. That gradually increased agitation in his heart was like a remanent snow meeting a flame, swiftly melting away and vanishing.

With the 'Icy Heart Pill' to protect his mind, Xiao Yan was finally no longer afraid of losing guard of his mind. Immediately, he used all his strength to crazily circulate the Purple Flame encompassed in Dou Qi through his Qi Paths.

Following the Purple Flame circulating through the designated Qi Paths for 'Flame Mantra', Xiao Yan suddenly realized that a thread of Dou Qi and Purple Flame began to strangely merge together.

No, rather than say that they were merging, it was more appropriate to say that the Purple Flame was being gradually consumed by 'Flame Mantra' Dou Qi.

Looking at this scene, Xiao Yan heart felt both shocked and happy. From this situation, he could confirm one thing. This 'Flame Mantra' Qi Method

did indeed possess the miraculous ability to evolve.

As the pale yellow Dou Qi and the Purple Flame were about to pass through the last Qi Path for the 'Flame Mantra', the two of them had almost entirely become one. That originally pale yellow colored Dou Qi had at that moment, completely transformed into a pale, purple color. Moreover, on the surface of this pale purple Dou Qi, there was a rising faint Purple flame. However, this Purple Flame did not cause the Qi Paths any harm.

Seeing that the Dou Qi had entirely changed color, Xiao Yan's heart was filled with unrestrained happiness. He put in a greater amount of effort to direct the Dou Qi into completing the final portion of the circulation.

The circulation of the Dou Qi grew increasingly fast and finally, the Dou Qi with its color already changed, finally rushed out of the last Qi Path. Completing one perfect and complete cycle, the new Dou Qi stream returned to the lower abdomen.

After rushing out of the Qi Paths, the purple colored Dou Qi directly and unceasingly charged into the continuously spinning pale yellow vortex.

As more and more Dou Qi which had consumed the Purple Flame rushed out of the Qi Path, the vortex color was also slowly beginning to change from a pale yellow color into a pale purple color.

When the final thread of purple colored Dou Qi came out of the vein, the vortex had almost completely changed into a pale purple color.

At Xiao Yan's lower abdomen, the rotating vortex suddenly stopped and stood quietly.

At the same time, in the cave, the closed eyed Xiao Yan suddenly opened them. A glaring purple light shot out from his eyes for about half an inch, much like a real substance. A moment later, Xiao Yan slowly tilted his head and eyed Yao Lao. Stupidly, he opened his mouth and grinned. "Did I succeed?"

"You've succeeded!"

Yao Lao sighed heavily as he smiled and nodded. He could already feel

that Xiao yan contained a Dou Qi that was many times more powerful than what it had been before.

Seeing Yao Lao nodding his head in confirmation, the corner of Xiao Yan's mouth opened, releasing an untamed laughter that announced his unrestrained happiness in his heart. However, his face abruptly changed as he suddenly felt the energy from all around him unexpectedly flow uncontrollably into him.

"Teacher? What's happening?" Tilting his head, Xiao Yan asked in a frightened voice.

The unexpected change also caused Yao Lao to be a little shocked. He frowned, then moved to Xiao Yan's front and touched the latter's body with his palm. A moment later, a smile surfaced on the aged face.

"Good things really don't come alone. When one comes, a second and third follows. Congratulation, the time for you to break through a Dou Zhe and become a Dou Shi has arrived!"

Chapter 159: Advancing to Dou Shi!

“About to break through?”

Xiao Yan looked at Yao Lao, stunned. It was a while before he gradually recovered his wits after the shock from these words. He proceeded to say, half in disbelief, half in happiness.

“Yes.”

Feeling the energy in the surroundings rush about, Yao Lao smiled, “Prepare to break through, this is your chance. If you miss it, you’ll never know how long you will have to wait until your next opportunity.”

Emotionally nodding his head, Xiao Yan had no time to determine what level his Qi Method had evolved to as he hurriedly once again sat down. Both his hands came together to form a training seal before his thoughts submerged into his body.

As Xiao Yan entered into a training state, the surrounding energy that was rushing about became increasingly wild and violent. Until finally, Xiao Yan’s body seemed to become a black hole as it continuously devoured the violent energy.

Xiao Yan’s mind entered into his body and hastily started directing the incoming energy that was flooding in through his pores. Although there was a large quantity of this energy, there were too many impurities within it. Thus the energy needed to be refined by passing through the Qi Paths before it could be completely absorbed. If not, the Dou Qi he had so painstakingly trained might be contaminated.

However, although Xiao Yan was already doing his best to control the vast amounts of incoming energy, he was eventually unable to gain complete control of suppressing it. After all, the scope of the energy was truly too terrifying.

With no other way out, Xiao Yan could only try to control a small portion while the rest of the energy was left to freely flow around his body. Of course, Xiao Yan had already proper protection in place for the key

areas, thus even though the energy was free to flow recklessly within his body, it only caused Xiao Yan some pain but was currently unable to do too much damage.

Under Xiao Yan's careful control, a portion of the natural energy that had flooded into his body circulated for a cycle in his Qi Paths before being refined into pure Dou Qi energy that he poured into the pale purple vortex.

The pouring of this forceful Dou Qi was like throwing a huge rock into a calm lake, creating huge waves.

The originally leisurely spinning vortex suddenly began spinning at an increased speed with the pouring of this wave of Dou Qi energy. As the rotation became more and more intense, a ferocious suction force exploded forth. At that moment, Xiao Yan was horrified to realize that his mind was actually unable to control the natural energy that had entered his body.

Without the suppression from Xiao Yan's mind, the natural energy that was scattered throughout Xiao Yan's body and the unceasing absorption of the natural energy from his surroundings were madly being sucked into the vortex.

Following the fast rotation of the vortex in Xiao Yan's body, the suction that his body emitted in the cave also grew increasingly frightening. In the end, the mottled natural energy formed a energy curtain around Xiao Yan's body, giving the surroundings a dazzling appearance.

Yao Lao floated in mid air and observed the situation Xiao Yan had caused. He frowned. "What is this guy doing? How does he dare to directly put such unpure energy into his vortex?"

Yao Lao slowly let out a breath as he frowned tensely. He suppressed the anxiety in him and quietly watched Xiao Yan. In his mind, he was prepared to reach out and save Xiao Yan. From the looks of the situation, Xiao Yan should not be able to hold out much longer.

As Yao Lao was feeling both uncertain and anxious in the outside world, Xiao Yan, with his eyes tightly shut, was also beginning to feel a little

panicky in his heart. He realized that because the unrestrained flooding of energy from his surroundings and his mind failing to control and ease it, his Qi Paths were starting to feel a faint swelling sensation and some pain. If he continued to absorb the energy in such a crazy manner, he might face the danger of having his Qi Paths swell and explode.

“Bastard. Stop right now!”

Without any strength to stop it, Xiao Yan could only use his mind to repeatedly roar at the fast rotating purple colored vortex.

Xiao yan was uncertain if the roar was effective but the fast spinning vortex suddenly became a little sluggish. However, before Xiao Yan could express his surprise, the vortex once again madly spun with an even more ferocious speed.

“Dammit!” Seeing the action of the vortex, Xiao Yan was so angry that he immediately cursed at it. However, just as his scolding died off, he abruptly realized that following the fast rotation, the surface of the purple colored vortex was gradually starting to be shrouded by a layer of purple colored flame.

The rotation of the vortex grew increasingly fast and the Purple Flame also grew increasingly rich. At this moment, the natural energy that was scattered all around his body quickly and randomly passed through some Qi Paths and rushed into his lower abdomen. They then swarmed into the vortex from all directions.

Xiao Yan’s mind blankly observed the surging natural energy as he wailed in his heart. If the energy that was filled with impurities was to rush into the interior of the vortex, all of the Dou Qi that he had taken great pains to train would instantly be destroyed.

Under Xiao Yan’s forlorn observation, the surging natural energy finally began touching the vortex. However, when it touched the purple colored flame, something strange happened!

That originally mild purple colored flame appeared to have its dignity provoked at that moment. In an instant, it rose into a Purple Flame that was half a foot large. Upon touching the Purple Flame, the swarming

natural energy swiftly shrunk. In the blink of an eye, groups of enormous natural energy was calcined into droplets of small liquid energy around the size of a fingernail.

After the Purple Flame burnt off all the impurities in the energy, it appeared to have an intelligence of its own as it avoided these droplets of pure liquid energy, allowing them to directly break into the vortex.

When the liquid energy shot into the fast spinning purple colored vortex, it immediately created circles of energy ripples. Under the observation of Xiao Yan's mind, he abruptly realized that following the input of the drops of liquid energy, the size of the purple colored vortex was strangely shrinking slowly.

The size of the purple colored vortex grew increasingly small, but Xiao Yan did not worry. He could feel that although the size of the vortex was shrinking, the Dou Qi that was contained within the vortex was growing increasingly richer...

Feeling the increasingly dense Dou Qi vortex, Xiao Yan began to gradually ease his frightened feeling as he quietly watched the vortex's action.

After the first wave of natural energy was refined by the Purple Flame, the remaining natural energy did not disappear because of this. Instead, the vortex ferocious suction strength caused waves of mottled natural energy to violently rush into Xiao Yan's inner body, much like water sucked into a whirlpool.

Faced with this seemingly never ending pouring of natural energy, the purple colored vortex directly widened its embrace and did not reject anything that came. However, when the energy entered the boundary of the Purple Flame, it was quickly refined by the ferocious Purple Flame into drops of pure liquid energy. Finally, like a drizzle in Xiao Yan's body, the energy would drip into the vortex.

With the support from the extremely pure liquid energy, the suction emitted from the vortex was stronger with each wave. Finally, even Yao Lao in the outside world was slightly affected by this crazy suction force.

Under the scour of this natural energy, Xiao Yan suddenly realised that the Qi Paths and bones in his body became tougher and more spacious.

With the situation progressing to this stage, Xiao Yan could no longer get involved. Everything was controlled by the purple colored vortex. Luckily, this strange thing did not really mess around indiscriminately. Otherwise, Xiao Yan may have ended up being badly wounded.

As his mind roamed about in his body, Xiao Yan could clearly feel that his body was slowly strengthening under the scouring from the continuous waves of natural energy. This kind of sublime feeling almost caused Xiao Yan to moan in comfort.

Within the cave, Yao Lao watched the comfortable smile on Xiao Yan's face and finally let out a gradual sigh. He shook his head and smiled. From the looks of the situation, something unknown and mysterious had occurred in the young boy's inner body. Otherwise, he would not display such a lewd expression.

Of course, Xiao Yan naturally did not know that his expression of comfort had become something exclusively lewd in Yao Lao's heart. This was because all of his attention was attracted to the purple colored vortex that was spinning at an increasingly fast speed.

After absorbing an unknown amount of pure liquid energy, the current purple colored vortex was no bigger than Xiao Yan palm. However, the purple colored flame on its surface grew increasingly rich, showing no sign of weakening.

Under the careful study of Xiao Yan's mind, he could vaguely discover that there seemed to be some liquid like thing within the vortex.

The greedy absorption continued for a long while until the fast spinning purple colored vortex suddenly stagnated. A moment after it came to a standstill before beginning to spin in the reverse direction.

Seeing that the vortex had suddenly spun in reverse, Xiao Yan was more than stunned. He could only pray in his heart that the vortex would not act recklessly.

Perhaps the vortex heard Xiao Yan's prayer. The purple colored vortex that was spinning in reverse did not possess any destructive strength. However, the pure liquid energy that originally was flowing into the vortex was shot out in all direction with the force from the reverse spin.

The liquid energy was thrown to every part of his body by the purple colored vortex. Each time the liquid energy touched a Qi Path, bone, blood or flesh, Xiao Yan found that the liquid energy was assimilated into them.

"Hu..."

Xiao Yan mind let out a gentle breath of non-existent air; an unrestrained happiness surged within his heart. Xiao yan could feel that following the assimilation of the liquid energy, all of his bones, blood and flesh seemed to have been transformed as they felt as if they were flooded with abundant energy.

The reversed vortex continued to shoot out energy for over ten minutes before it came to a gradual stop. Following its slow stop, the ferocious suction within Xiao Yan's body was also weakened until it disappeared.

At the moment when the suction disappeared, Xiao Yan, who was seated cross-legged suddenly opened his eyes. Instantly, the black hair on his back blew back and the clothes drummed without any wind. A wave of ferocious force that was many times stronger than what it was a few hours ago was awakened in his body and was released from it.

Sensing the vigor from Xiao Yan's body, Yao Lao smiled and chuckled, "Congratulations, from today onwards, you are a true Dou Shi!"

Chapter 160: The Difference Between a Dou Shi and a Dou Zhe

The clothes on Xiao Yan body continued to bulge outward for a long time before finally returning to rest on Xiao Yan's skin. Xiao Yan released a breath foul air before standing up and turning towards the smiling Yao Lao at his side. Opening his mouth and letting out a grin, Xiao Yan could not hide the joy on his face. With a year's time, he had finally been promoted to a true Dou Shi. During this time, he had put in so much effort and perspiration in order to achieve the success that was like a butterfly breaking from his cocoon.

Becoming a Dou Shi meant that Xiao Yan had left the class that the majority of people belonged to. Although the class of Dou Shi was still considered to be on a lower level in the Dou Qi continent, it was considered to be much stronger and of a much higher class compared to a Dou Zhe which was of the lowest class. Most importantly, Xiao Yan was still young with a lot of time to strengthen himself!

Xiao Yan tightened his fist. A strength that he had never felt before was flowing in every part of his body. Only until today, when he personally stepped into the Dou Shi class, did Xiao Yan truly understand just how big the difference between Dou Zhe and Dou Shi was. Recalling the battle he had with Mu She back then, the current Xiao Yan could not help but rejoice in his heart. If Yao Lao had not taught him the Di class Dou Technique, he would have experienced great difficulty in defeating Mu She regardless of how he leapt around, much less being able to kill him.

Standing in place, Xiao Yan suddenly raised out his right hand and curled it into a fist. Immediately, a purple colored Dou Qi abruptly surfaced on his body. After the Dou Qi appeared, it suddenly withdrew a little. A moment later, it gradually accumulated just outside Xiao Yan's clothes, seemingly forming a layer of defensive Dou Qi. It was perhaps due to Xiao Yan swallowing the Purple Flame that faint rising Purple Flames could be seen on top of the defensive Dou Qi.

A Dou Qi cloak, the symbol of a Dou Shi, was one of the most practical skills of a Dou Shi. In the fight with Mu She, Xiao Yan had witnessed its immense usage. In the past, Xiao Yan might have been able to bring out a Dou Qi cloak but he could not cover all of his body with it like he did now.

Moreover, the Dou Qi cloaks that Xiao Yan had summoned out in the past did not have any effect on his speed, defence, attack etc. Only after becoming a Dou Shi would the cloak that was summoned out be equipped with these ability to aid in battle, something that all Dou Zhes coveted.

Seeing the mighty looking and beautiful purple colored fire cloak, Xiao Yan's face filled with joy as he threw a few quick punches that created a fierce wind. After the cleansing and strengthening of the natural energy from before, the current him could actually cause his fist to carry a sharp piercing sound with just his own strength.

Eyeing the excited Xiao Yan who was continuously testing the strength of a Dou Shi, Yao Lao shook his head with a smile. He waited for Xiao Yan to calm down before asking, "See if the 'Flame Mantra' had evolved. What level is it? Middle or High Level?"

Yao Lao's question prompted Xiao Yan to stop his rapid punches. He nodded his head and once again slowly closed his eyes, allowing his mind to descend into his body.

After Xiao Yan's mind descended into his body, it quickly came to the lower abdomen where his 'Dan Tian' was at. At this moment, the originally large pale yellow vortex here was completely transformed into a purple colored vortex that was smaller than Xiao Yan's palm. His mind swept across the small purple colored vortex and abruptly realized that there were over ten drops of purple colored liquid slowly flowing within that vortex. These drops of purple colored liquid followed the spiraling of the vortex, like small fish in a lake.

Xiao Yan's mind curiously entered the purple colored vortex and stealthily encompassed a small drop of purple colored liquid. After feeling it for a moment, an unrestrained happiness surfaced in Xiao Yan's heart; he realized that within these small drops of purple colored liquid was an

extremely forceful energy.

Realizing the secret of the purple colored liquid, Xiao Yan's heart was once again able to better understand the huge difference between a Dou Shi and a Dou Zhe. He instantly let out an emotional sigh.

The vortex of a Dou Zhe was like a balloon while the Dou Qi was like the air that was contained within the balloon. This balloon had a critical point that belonged to it and once the Dou Qi it contained reached the point where it was full, it would no longer be able to contain any excess Dou Qi. If one wanted to forcefully push more in, the vortex would pop like a balloon and explode with a bang.

When promoting from a Dou Zhe to a Dou Shi, the biggest benefit was that the filled Dou Qi in the balloon would undergo a transformation, changing into droplets of liquid energy with far denser, more complex, and purer energy than just simple Dou Qi.

Once the Dou Qi underwent the transformation, the quality and quantity of Dou Qi contained within the balloon would instantly expand tremendously.

Hence, by having this enormous Dou Qi storage, a Dou Shi was naturally far superior; a Dou Zhe could just not compare. In addition, with regards to the class and purity of their Dou Qi, they were entirely different.

Xiao Yan's mind slowly exited the vortex. After the the earlier probe, Xiao Yan could understand that despite these liquid drops appearing to be only the size of a fingernail, a third of his pale yellow Dou Qi before becoming a Dou Shi would be needed in order to create one of these tiny drops of liquid energy. From this, it was obvious just what kind of energy was contained in this one tiny drop.

As he watched the slowly spinning vortex, Xiao Yan's mind moved slightly. Threads of purple colored Dou Qi promptly flowed out and began to rush through the Qi Paths determined by the 'Flame Mantra' Qi Method.

Following the flow of the Dou Qi in the predetermined Qi Paths, Xiao Yan could feel numerous threads of fire type energy seeping in from the

surrounding air in the outside world, penetrating Xiao Yan's skin and entering his Qi Paths. The purple colored Dou Qi would then carry them and complete a perfect cycle of the Qi Method.

After completing a cycle of the Qi Method, Xiao Yan could feel that the threads of Dou Qi that were released from the vortex were much more powerful and much richer than they were a few minutes before.

Upon completion of a cycle, the Dou Qi which had become more powerful once again entered the vortex. At the moment it did, Xiao Yan's body trembled slightly. Finally, he opened his eyes slowly and watched Yao Lao's face that was filled with anticipation. He involuntarily shrugged his shoulders and helplessly said, "Huang Class Middle Level! It only evolved by one level."

"Huang Class Middle Level? Ha ha, it was expected."

Hearing Xiao Yan's words, Yao Lao did not feel any disappointment. He eyed the depressed face in front of him and could not help but laugh, "The evolution of this Qi Method requires the enormous energy of the 'Heavenly Flame'. From the start, this Purple Flame did not meet the requirement. It is already quite good that it caused the Qi Method to barely evolve by one level. Moreover, by relying on the uniqueness of 'Flame Mantra', the Qi Method of only Middle Huang level does not lose to other High Huang Qi Methods. You should be satisfied."

Hearing this, Xiao Yan could only nod his head with a bitter smile. Although he knew it was impossible, his heart continued to wait for a miracle to happen; maybe the Qi Method could directly jump to a Xuan class Qi Method. However, from the looks of it, this miracle was a little imaginary.

"Ugh, Heavenly Flame... swallowing the 'Purple Flame' has already given me tremendous suffering, but the effect isn't very notable. If I really met a Heavenly Flame, it would be difficult to know who would swallow who." Xiao Yan shook his head helplessly. Although Xiao Yan had never personally experienced the strength of a Heavenly Flame, he could faintly feel just how frightening that ghastly white colored flame of Yao Lao's was

when the latter was refining medicine.

Shaking his head with all his might, Xiao Yan threw aside the little listlessness in his heart. No matter what was said, his Qi Method had evolved. Moreover, he still had plenty of time. By taking things a step at a time, Xiao Yan believed that one day, he would be able to swallow a real 'Heavenly Flame' and evolve the 'Flame Mantra' into the Tian class Qi Method that only existed in legends.

Seeing that Xiao Yan was gradually recovering from his depressed state, Yao Lao smiled. "Since you have already become a Dou Shi, our training in the Magic Beast Mountain Range will be over soon!"

"Then let's go. I am a little irritated looking at these broken mountains."

"Yes, tomorrow we'll leave." Yao Lao nodded his head as he mused out loud, "If we count the time we spent here, there is only eight more months of time before we need to go to the Misty Cloud Sect for the three year agreement."

Hearing this, Xiao Yan's body trembled and his gaze swept across the space outside the cave. A long while later, he frowned and said, "I wonder what level she is at now..."

"Hehe. You can relax. In the remaining time, I may not be able to help you become a Da Dou Shi, but being promoted by a few stars within the Dou Shi level should not be too difficult." Yao Lao said blandly. When his words reached this point, there was a slight pause before he continued with a smile, "Moreover, even if there was some unexpected reason that caused her strength to rise so much that it far exceeds you, you should believe that this old body of mine would not brag. Within this Jia Ma Empire, there hasn't been many people whom I hold in regard... even if it was that Misty Cloud Sect Leader Yun Yun whose strength is ranked among the top three in the Jia Ma Empire."

"Haha, I've never doubted Teacher's strength. If you say it is possible, then I'll naturally believe it." Being given a reassurance to calm him, Xiao Yan felt much more relaxed as he curried favor with Yao Lao.

Giving the fawning smile on Xiao Yan's face a supercilious look, Yao Lao

waved his hand and said, "Tomorrow, we will leave the Magic Beast Mountain Range. Our next stop is the vast Tager Desert at the border of the Jia Ma Empire. I'll warn you first, the training there will be much tougher and more dangerous than in the Magic Beast Mountain Range. You should prepare yourself for it."

"Tager Desert... My two elder brothers seem to be around that area. If I get the time, I can take a look on my way."

Opening his mouth and grinning, Xiao Yan patted his chest and said to Yao Lao, "As long as I can swiftly strengthen myself without any adverse side effect, you can just throw any difficult training at me."

"Ha ha. what a strong will!" Yao Lao laughed as the corner of his eyes harbored ill intentions as they glanced at Xiao Yan. "I hope that you will not beat a retreat when that time comes. But by that time, even if you wanted to, I would forcefully kick you back."

Smiling awkwardly, Xiao Yan smartly remained silent.

"Alright. Go back and rest. Tomorrow morning we will leave." Just as Yao Lao was about to return into the ring, his body suddenly shook. After musing for a while, he suddenly said, "Back then, I had visited the Tager Desert because I heard that a type of 'Heavenly Flame' was hidden in the vast desert. Unfortunately, I did not manage to find it. If you are lucky, you might have the chance to..."

After saying to this point, Yao Lao did not bother to look at the brightened eyes of Xiao Yan. His body swayed and entered into the ring.

"Heavenly Flame..."

With his fist tightened in a somewhat agitated manner, Xiao Yan turned around and walked out of the cave. After testing the strength of the Purple Flame, his hunger for the even more ferocious and frightening 'Heavenly Flame' had also increased.

"I must have it!"

The young man's firm soft voice that carried a little greed reverberated throughout the interior of the cave.

Chapter 161: Parting

After leaping out from the mountain cave, Xiao Yan's gaze swept around the valley. At the moment, the lamp within the small straw house was still lit. Outside the straw house, a gentle and beautiful figure who was wearing a white dress was seated on a small chair. Leaning against the door and borrowing the light from the fire behind her, the figure's head was lowered, engrossed in the seven colored scroll in her hand.

Appearing to have heard the sound of footsteps a short distance away, the Fairy Doctor knitted her eyebrows together and removed her gaze from the scroll. She watched the young man slowly walk over under the moonlight and could not help but smile, "Have you succeeded in your training? There's still some warm food in the house."

Hearing this warm and soft voice, Xiao Yan's heart was a little moved. These words and this scenery made the Fairy Doctor seem like a young wife that had waited for her husband to return after a long day. The soft and gentle voice contained concern and expectation.

The expression on his face grew increasingly gentle as Xiao Yan approached. He sat beside the Fairy Doctor, glanced at the Seven colored Poison Book in her hand and swept his gaze across her pretty face. A moment later, he appeared to have discovered something and frowned. With a helpless and gentle sigh, he extended his hand and rubbed off a little black powder that was difficult to discover from the side of the Fairy Doctor's moist small red mouth. He smiled bitterly and shook his head.

Looking at the Fairy Doctor's appearance, it was obvious that she had consumed poison during the time he was training...

Eyeing Xiao Yan's action, the Fairy Doctor's pretty face was first flushed. Soon after, she noticed the little bit of black powder on Xiao Yan's hand and immediately turned her eyes away in a cowardly manner. After a while, she hurriedly took out a white colored kerchief and carefully wiped off all the black powder on Xiao Yan's finger.

"...I may have to go tomorrow." Xiao Yan suddenly said as he watched

the Fairy Doctor wipe off the poison powder.

The hand that was rubbing stilled for a short while. A moment later, the gentleness returned to the Fairy Doctor as she slightly nodded. In a soft voice, she said, "After stopping here for such a long time, it should be time to leave."

"After leaving here, where do you plan to go?" The silent atmosphere persisted for while before it was broken by Xiao Yan's question.

"I think that maybe I will go to Chu Yun Empire and take a look there after leaving the Jia Ma Empire. Then I will roam around the Dou Qi Continent." The Fairy Doctor said with a forceful smile.

"Chu Yun Empire..."

Xiao Yan whispered in his heart and once again laughed bitterly. Even though he had never been to that empire, he had heard some information about the Chu Yun Empire. Within that empire, the number of poison masters exceeded any other empire.

"I will go to the Tager Desert to train. That place is in the east of the Jia Ma Empire border while Chu Yun Empire is located to the west of the Jia Ma Empire. Therefore, after we leave tomorrow, we will have to part ways." Xiao Yan said as he rubbed his forehead and raised his head to stare at the stars.

"Oh." The Fairy Doctor nodded her head slightly, obviously in low spirits. She said softly, "I hope you will take care of yourself. After we part ways tomorrows, I don't know when we will see each other again. Perhaps, in the future, I may never return... ah but that is not certain. If I managed to reach the stage where everyone is furious and scared of me... Haha, I will return to this small valley and await for the end of this Woeful Poison Body."

Facing the Fairy Doctor's somewhat despondent smooth face, Xiao Yan parted his mouth slightly, wanting to say something. However, no words came out. After all, according to Yao Lao, the lady who possessed the 'Woeful Poison Body' back then had done such shocking and disastrous things.

After being silent for a long while, Xiao Yan could only lightly pat her shoulders and comfort her by saying “That won’t happen. A mature Woeful Poison Body is indeed scary but as long as you can control yourself and don’t kill hundreds of thousands of people in a moment of anger, there should be anyone who would foolishly come and provoke you.”

The Fairy Doctor laughed bitterly and shook her head slightly. However, she remained quiet. She did not inform Xiao Yan that once the ‘Woeful Poison Body’ matures, the poison accumulated in the body would occasionally cause the owner to go insane. When she was in that kind of state, the Fairy Doctor did not dare guarantee that she would not do any terrifying things.

Gently shaking her head, the Fairy Doctor thought quietly for a while before she suddenly stood up and walked into the straw house under Xiao Yan’s puzzled gaze. A moment later, she carefully took out a meticulously packaged sachet and a small jade bottle.

“The thing in here is known as ‘Falling Soul Powder’. Its name may be a little frightening, but it is not purely a poison. This is something that I found in the Seven colored Poison Book and is the highest grade medicinal powder that I am currently able to make.” Shaking the sachet, the Fairy Doctor smiled and said, “ This ‘Falling Soul Powder’ emits a smell that irritates the eyes. Moreover, I have also added some special things in it. If you meet any strong person whom you cannot handle in the future, you can scatter it on the other party. If he or she is caught off guard, even if the other person is a Da Dou Shi, the piercing smell released by it would cause them to temporarily close their eyes. During this time, there would be an opportunity to flee.”

Curiously receiving the sachet, Xiao Yan had intended to open it when the Fairy Doctor hurriedly stopped him. At the same time, she handed over the jade bottle in her hand and said angrily, “This poison does not differentiate between the enemy and the user. When you use it, it would be best to consume the antidote that I have created. Otherwise, your sense of sight would also be temporarily sealed, turning you into a blind person for a while.”

Embarrassingly withdrawing his hand, Xiao Yan carefully kept both things. In the future, he might really have to use them.

After handing the things to Xiao Yan, the Fairy Doctor took out another jade bottle, threw it towards Xiao Yan and said, “Tager Desert is the territory of the Medusa Snake People. They are experts in using snake poison. This is an antidote pill that I have created. It may not be able to completely resist snake poison but it can smoothly dispel the snake poison of weaker Snake People.”

Fondling the jade bottle that was still carrying a little warmth, Xiao Yan smiled faintly. Although this antidote pill was not really useful to an alchemist like him, the Fairy Doctor’s thought caused him to be a little touched.

“Alright, these are all the things I have. I’ve given you everything so don’t try to exploit me.” Waving her hand, the Fairy Doctor naughtily said to Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. He reached his hand and rubbed it on the ring and a small jade bottle appeared in his palm. The jade bottle contained seven ‘Energy Recovery Pills’, which were left over from his training.

Raising the jade bottle in his hand, Xiao Yan waved at the Fairy Doctor and smiled, “I think you have not seen a real medicinal pill in Qingshan Town, have you?”

Hearing this, the Fairy Doctor’s vivid eyes brightened slightly. She stared intently at the jade bottle in Xiao Yan’s hand and asked in a shocked voice, “There’s medicinal pills in it?”

“Ah, yes. It’s your now.” Xiao Yan nodded with a smile and threw it to the Fairy Doctor. The latter quickly and carefully caught it.

“Be a little more careful. What if you break it?” After catching the small jade bottle, the Fairy Doctor angrily gave Xiao Yan a disdainful look. After which, she quickly opened the bottle and poured out a somewhat dark green round and sleek pill. Putting it under her pretty nose and sniffing it, the fresh medicinal fragrance caused the Fairy Doctor to both be

intoxicated and sad. This kind of smell was something that she had chased after for many years. Unfortunately, she was only able to smell the shady scent of poison.

“Is this a medicinal pill? Indeed, the medicine that I make by using a normal flame to mix the medicinal ingredients together cannot be compared with it.” Seeing the round and sleek surface as well as its luster, the Fairy Doctor sighed and helplessly said.

“Alright. It is not my intention to dishearten you by giving you the medicinal pill. The name of the medicinal pill is ‘Energy Recovery Pill’. It can swiftly recover the expended Dou Qi in your body. With the help of the ‘Energy Recovery Pill’, during a fight with others, you can save quite a bit of strength.” Seeing the Fairy Doctor’s self-pitying manner, Xiao Yan shook his head as he said.

“No wonder you were able to last so long during your battle with Mu She. It was because of this treasure.” The Fairy Doctor said with a smile as she bluntly kept the jade bottle.

Xiao Yan smiled but did not start an argument over this issue. He leaned against the door and quietly raised his head to stare at the star filled sky.

Being infected by the quiet atmosphere, the Fairy Doctor had also become quiet. Her arm wrapped around her long pair of legs and her vivid eyes stealthily blinked with the stars in the sky.

Under the enchanting moonlight, a man and a woman quietly watched the night sky until the moon in the sky slowly dimmed. The sleepy pair cuddled together and leaned against the door frame as they gradually fell into a deep sleep.

When Xiao Yan slowly woke up from his sleep the next morning, he found himself unknowingly lying on the bed. Tilting his head, he swept it across the empty room. He shook his head, expelling the sleepiness from his mind and sat up before walking out of the small house.

Once he was out of the house, Xiao Yan discovered that Blue Eagle was slowly floating in the sky of the small valley. It’s loud and clear eagle cry continued to resound as though the Blue Eagle was announcing that it was

leaving this place today.

“Are you awake?” Just as Xiao Yan was about to look around expectantly, a clear female voice suddenly sounded from his left side.

Turning his head around, Xiao Yan eyed the Fairy Doctor who was carrying a full basket of medicinal ingredients and could not help but shake his head. He reached his hand into his pocket and took out a storage ring he obtained from his Wu Tan City. He took two steps forward, grabbed the Fairy Doctor’s hand and put it on her. With a smile, he said, “Consider this a parting gift. With it, it should be convenient for you to store your medicinal ingredients.”

Playing with the storage ring on her hand, the Fairy Doctor smiled. Although she knew that this thing was somewhat expensive, she did not reject it. She carefully placed the medicinal ingredients one at a time into the storage ring before placing the Seven colored Poison Book and other things into it. Raising her head, she spoke to Xiao Yan in a faint, gentle voice, “Aren’t you going to prepare some medicinal ingredients? After you leave this place, it is going to be difficult to find such a good place.”

“Ha ha, I prepared what I needed two days ago.” Xiao Yan proudly waved his hand and smiled.

The Fairy Doctor’s pretty eyes stared at Xiao Yan’s brilliant smile and raised her nose. With a sigh, she placed the bamboo whistle beside her small moist red mouth and gently blew, releasing a faint sound that reached the sky.

Hearing this sound, the Blue Eagle in the sky immediately circled downwards. It flapped its wings, putting such pressure on the plants that they were forced to creep on the ground.

“Let’s go. This is the final time we’ll ride together.” The Fairy Doctor said with a smile as she took a step forward and gracefully placed her gentle pretty body on Xiao Yan.

Nodding his head with a smile, Xiao Yan extended his arm and held her extremely fragile looking willow waist. He pushed off the ground, lifting their bodies up from the ground and finally, firmly and steadily landed on

the back of the Blue Eagle.

Standing on the back of the eagle, Xiao Yan watched the shrinking straw house in the valley and sighed gently. He mumbled, “Goodbye!”

Chapter 162: The Three Things Necessary to Refine the Heavenly Flame

On one of the mountain ranges at the eastern border of the Magic Beast Mountain Range.

Standing on the peak of a mountain, Xiao Yan lifted his head and watched the Blue Eagle circling in the sky. He waved to the white dressed lady gracefully standing on the eagle's back and shouted with a smile, "Fairy Doctor, we'll part here. We'll meet again if we are destined to."

"Take care, Xiao Yan!"

The Fairy Doctor lowered her head and stared at the young man on the mountain with a smile. The smile contained some sorrow but after she waved her hand, she did not linger. She directed the Blue Eagle and adjusted her body before flying toward the western sky amidst a clear eagle cry.

Standing at the mountain peak, Xiao Yan's gaze continued to send that faint blue shadow off until it disappeared into the horizon. After which, he took in a gradual breath. After this parting of ways, it was difficult to tell just how long they needed to wait before they would see each other again. Moreover, when they did see each other again, maybe everything between them had changed drastically.

Xiao Yan's face was a little lonely. A moment later, however, Xiao Yan shook his head and abandoned his thoughts.

Xiao Yan stood on the peak for a long time, waiting for his emotions to calm down before he turned around and walked towards the base of the mountain with the large Heavy Xuan Ruler on his back.

The place where Xiao Yan was currently at was not within the boundary of Qingshan Town. After all, these small towns were not rare near the Magic Beast Mountain Range.

The city that was currently located closest to Xiao Yan was a huge city situated in the eastern province of the Jia Ma Empire. Its size was much

more majestic compared to Wu Tan City. If one were to discuss its military strength, this city was among the strongest when compared with all of the large cities within the Jia Ma Empire.

Xiao Yan currently planned to first hurry to Black Rock City. This was because only such large sized cities would be allocated a Flying Transportation Fleet by the empire for the commoner's use. After all, the Magic Beast Mountain Range and the eastern border were too far apart. If Xiao Yan were to walk over, he might need at least four to five months. However, Xiao Yan currently did not have time to squander. Thus, he must head to Black Rock City to take one of the Flying Transportation Fleets toward the border of the empire.

Of course, Xiao Yan could also directly use the Purple Cloud Wings to fly there. However, even with his recent promotion to the Dou Shi level, it was a little impossible for him to pass through over half of the Jia Ma Empire.

Moreover, it would be far too easy to be noticed by people if he used the Purple Cloud Wings to fly. With the Jia Ma Empire being so vast, there were many strong people hiding within it; he did not want to get himself into unnecessary trouble. The reason for avoiding trouble was that it was far too time consuming. As he had said earlier, the thing that he was in need of the most was time.

After descending from the peak, Xiao Yan arrived at a small town. He rested for awhile before hiring the fastest carriage available and at the fastest speed, rushed toward Black Rock City without stopping.

Although this town was the closest to Black Rock City, the horse carriage took most of the afternoon before Xiao Yan could faintly see the city's huge outline.

Standing on the horse carriage, Xiao Yan watched the huge city that was reflecting a dim reddish light under the setting sun and let out a faint sigh.

As the horse carriage grew closer, Xiao Yan realized that the enormous city walls were actually built from numerous blocks of neatly arranged Black Rock. According to the old driver of the horse carriage, the city walls

had withstood the a smashing attack from the combined strength of two Dou Wang without shaking. From this, it could be understood just how strong the defense of the walls were.

After paying the taxes for the horse carriage at the city's gate, it was successfully let in. The horse carriage passed through a dark tunnel through the city wall. A moment later, Xiao Yan's sight was open and clear while the noisy sound of people's voices came pouring into Xiao Yan ears from all directions. Being unprepared, Xiao Yan's head swelled slightly.

Xiao Yan's head was a little giddy as he walked out of the carriage under the smiling gaze of the old man. He paid the fare and watched the horse carriage scattering about as it left. Standing blankly on a street, Xiao Yan observed the surrounding jumble of the crowd. Having been used to the quietness of the valley, Xiao Yan suddenly found that he did not know what to do.

"First, find a place for the night. I'm not sure if this Black Rock City has any Alchemist Association. If there is, it would be best to go and take the test and see if you can achieve a tier two grade." Yao Lao voice suddenly sounded in Xiao Yan's heart.

"Go to the Alchemist Association?" Xiao Yan stilled as he asked in a stunned voice, "Won't that mean that I would expose my identity as an alchemist?"

"..." Hearing this Yao Lao was a little speechless. After a long while, he said in a manner that suggested he did not know whether to laugh or cry, "I never told you to hide your identity as an alchemist, right? You're the one who's been trying to hide. I know that you like to keep a low profile but you should know that the most frightening thing of an alchemist is not just that they can make medicinal pills. Rather, it is that they have and create an enormous network. After all, there are many strong people who required medicinal pills. When they need these pills, they need to get an alchemist to help them. Once the strong people owe the alchemists favors, won't these strong people be the best fighters when the alchemists meet any trouble in the future?"

“Back then, there was a time where someone came to seek revenge on me. The other side had a Dou Zhong, three Dou Huangs and five Dou Wangs... Do you want to know what happened next?” Yao Lao said with a smile as he suddenly paused at this point.

With the most important portion being severed off, Xiao Yan could only helplessly shake his head and ask, “What happened next?”

“After that I used spiritual communication. Uh, this is something you will know in the future. What happened next... Three Dou Zhongs, Eight Dou Huangs, Twelve Dou Wangs and Eighteen Dou Lings along with others that I cannot remember came. The result, I believe, you should be able to imagine.” Yao Lao, who was full of smiles, replied.

Xiao Yan’s steps suddenly froze. He slowly lifted his head and took in a breath of cool air. Three Dou Zhongs, eight Dou Huangs, twelve Dou Wangs... this kind of frightening line-up should have no problem destroying even an entire empire. Did alchemists really possess such an enormous power?

“Ah. So, it does not hurt if you occasionally reveal your identity as an alchemist.”

“It seems that there’s some logic to it. Tomorrow, I’ll go to the Alchemist Association to test if I can be promoted to a tier two alchemist.”

Xiao Yan was still a little dazzled as he scratched his head. However, he soon nodded his head and accepted it. Xiao Yan was not the type to be begging for favors so if he had the opportunity to let a strong person owe him a favor, he would naturally grab the chance. If there was no such chance, it was not something to be anxious about.

“Ah, additionally, if you have the time, go and take a look at the auction house here. If there’s a rank three Monster Core, try your best to purchase it.” Yao Lao voiced his thoughts once more, “Although we have not found any type of Heavenly Flame, we still ought to perform all of the preparation steps. Otherwise, if you luckily found one, you might well have to abandon the extremely rare chance of consuming it.”

“A rank three Monster Core? That is the last ingredient needed for

refining the 'Blood Lotus Pill', isn't it?" Xiao Yan asked as he slowly walked down the street. His gaze was randomly sweeping over the surrounding shops.

"Yes. If you want to swallow the Heavenly Flame, you will need the help of at least three indispensable things. The 'Blood Lotus Pill' is one of them."

"The 'Blood Lotus Pill' is an essential thing that allows you to come into close contact with a Heavenly Flame. Without its protection, even a Dou Huang would not dare to simply come into contact with a 'Heavenly Flame', much less a small Dou Shi like you."

"'Ice Spirit Cold Fountain'. If the 'Blood Lotus Pill' is meant to protect the exterior of your body, then this 'Ice Spirit Cold Fountain' is meant to protect the inside of your body. It can protect you from the destructive temperature of a 'Heavenly Flame' when you are refining it, preventing you from being burnt till nothing remains."

"The last item is known as Acceptance Soul. This thing can create a special space in your body which is used to store a Heavenly Flame. After all, if you have not completely refined the flame, the kind of destructive ability of a Heavenly Flame would incinerate everything, including your vortex and body, except this kind of space of nothingness.

"However, an Acceptance Soul is very rare. I heard that it also has some relationship with the storage rings. An Acceptance Soul can only be found at the center of the highest grade Storage Stone which makes Storage Rings. You should know that the highest grade Storage Stone is the essential raw material in smelting a high grade storage ring, so its rarity can be imagined. The presence of an Acceptance Soul in a high grade Acceptance Stone is not very high. Ah... now you should know the extent of the rarity of an Acceptance Soul."

Xiao Yan opened his mouth, his face was lifeless. A long while later, he bitterly laughed and shook his head, "The Ice Spirit Cold Fountain and the Acceptance Soul are two things that I have never even heard of. Where do you want me to go to look for it?"

“You need not worry too much about the Acceptance Soul. Back then, when I was searching for a Heavenly Flame, I coincidentally prepared a little bit extra. Hence, the only thing that you lack is the Ice Spirit Cold Fountain and the rank three Monster Core.” Yao Lao replied with a smile.

“Where can I find the Ice Spirit Cold Fountain?” Xiao Yan asked while laughing drily.

“An extremely cold place or an extremely hot place...” Yao Lao answered with a smile.

“It is also present in an extremely hot place? Things go into reverse when pushed to the extreme?” Xiao Yan blinked his eyes and asked in a surprised voice.

“It is precisely this theory.” Yao Lao nodded his head. He then continued while smiling, “Of course, if you are lucky enough, you may be able to get it from someone else’s hands or the auction house. But I think that the chances aren’t that great. After all, as long as someone has a bit of a decent knowledge, they would know that that thing is extremely rare. Normally, they would not easily take it out.”

“If we fail to prepare all these... but we luckily meet a ‘Heavenly Flame’, what do we do?” Xiao Yan rolled his eyes as he asked.

“Then we run. Abandon the chance, regardless of how hard it is to come by. Without these three essential things, you will die if you touch the ‘Heavenly Flame’!” Yao Lao said blandly without the slightest hesitation in his voice.

“Aren’t there any substitutes?” Xiao Yan asked in a dissatisfied voice.

“There are. However, these three things are selected by me as the most suitable support items when refining the ‘Heavenly Flame’ after countless of experiments. To bluntly put it, if you were to say that you have a preparation method that would greatly increase the chances of success in refining a ‘Heavenly Flame’, numerous alchemists would spend a shocking sum in order to obtain it!” Yao Lao’s voice contained a little pride. It appeared that these three items had really involved a lot of effort on his part.

Shaking his head as he smiled bitterly, Xiao Yan's footsteps paused outside a spacious and luxurious hotel. He sighed, "Alright, I will try my best to get the rank three Monster Core and the Ice Spirit Cold Fountain. However, whether I can get hold of them is something I'm not certain of."

"Now, we should go and rest for the night. After visiting the Alchemist Association tomorrow, we should go and stop by at the auction house. Hopefully, we will not be disappointed."

Chapter 163: Grandmaster Ao Tuo

On the second day, right as the first morning light shone on the land, Xiao Yan left the inn. As he left, he inquired about the location of the Alchemist Association in the city.

Walking on the street in the early morning, Xiao Yan recalled the shock and adulation that appeared on the Innkeeper's face when Xiao Yan was inquiring about the location of the Alchemist Association. He secretly found it funny and quietly sighed. It looked like the noble identity that alchemists had was something that was entrenched into the heart of everyone in the Dou Qi continent. Otherwise, these people would not display a expression of reverence when talking about the Alchemist Association.

Black Rock City indeed lived up to its name as one of the biggest cities in the Jia Ma Empire. Although it was extremely early in the morning, the streets were already bustling; full of the sounds and people. Moreover, there was the occasional soldier orderly passing by. The orderly armor clangings clearly rang out in the early morning air, as if they were the morning bell.

Following the direction that the Innkeeper had told him, Xiao Yan slowly passed by a couple of very long streets. He roamed for quite a while before he finally slowed his footsteps to a stop. Raising his head, he gazed at the majestic building that had appeared in front of his eyes.

This building was uniquely designed. Looking at the outline from outside, it appeared like a medicinal cauldron while the windows that surrounded the building appeared like the fire outlets of a medicinal cauldron. From at the top of the building, there was an enormous cover that crept downwards, covering all the rooms below it.

Xiao Yan's gaze fell onto a pale purple colored sandalwood inscription board outside of the building. There were two words in an ancient looking script that appeared slightly blurry in it's flickering faint glow.

“Alchemist Association!”

Mumbling the words to himself, Xiao Yan turned his head and took a glance around him. He realized that most of those who passed by this unique building would throw a gaze filled with awe toward the inscription board. Of course, there were also some people who threw a surprised gaze toward Xiao Yan who was standing foolishly outside the Alchemist Association.

Ignoring the surrounding gazes, Xiao Yan gently touched the Heavy Xuan Ruler on his back before striding into the Alchemist Association.

When he entered the building, two fully armed big men that had already noticed him for a while extended their hands to block him. In a slightly unclear voice, one of them asked, "Little boy, this is the Alchemist Association. You want to enter? Do you have a recommendation letter from your teacher?"

"Uh? Recommendation letter?" Hearing this, Xiao Yan heart stopped for a beat. In his mind, he gently but doubtfully asked, "Teacher, what exactly is this recommendation letter?"

"... Uhh, I'm not sure either. Each country in the Dou Qi continent has their own Alchemist Association and their rules are also different. In the past, I seldom came to the Jia Ma Empire so I don't know what is it." From within the ring, Yao Lao said in a similarly stunned voice.

Xiao Yan helplessly shook his head. Just as Xiao Yan was worrying about what to say, a nice smelling wind suddenly blew from behind him. From his senses, the owner of this fragrance did not have any intention of stepping aside. Frowning slightly, Xiao Yan could only give way by moving his body, that was blocking the entrance, aside.

Almost immediately after Xiao Yan gave way, a petite figure hurriedly stopped at the spot he was occupying. Ignoring Xiao Yan, who was by the side, the figure turned around and called sweetly, "Teacher, hurry up!"

"Ugh. Girl, why are you rushing so early in the morning? That old man Frank may not have even risen yet." An old voice helplessly sounded from behind.

TL: Yes, it's actually Frank (Fu Lan Ke).

Xiao Yan tilted his head and his gaze swept across the old man who was slowly walking over with lazy footsteps. His eyes roamed around, finally landing on the badge on the old man's chest. On the ancient looking medicinal cauldron were four meticulously drawn silver colored waves!

“Tier four alchemist.”

After mumbling with a surprised voice in his heart, Xiao Yan once again tilted his head and watched the purple dressed girl standing close to him. The girl's age was around twenty and she had a delicate and pretty face which was enchanting. Her figure was a little petite but her body was shockingly well developed. The protrusion and depressions on her body were all in the right places. On her extremely matured delicate body, she wore purple colored tight alchemist apparel. At a glance, the apparel had a noble flavor. After all, an alchemist's apparel was not something that could be carelessly worn. While she was wearing an alchemist's apparel, however, the girl did not have any badge that represented her alchemy tier on her chest area.

The long black hair of the girl was tied with a purple ribbon and so long that it rested on her pretty butt. When it moved, it lightly tapped on the round and raised, pretty buttocks. The light soft noise was like the claw of a cat, continuously scratching the hearts of the men with inappropriate gazes around her.

Appearing to have discovered Xiao Yan's gaze sizing her up, the girl turned around and eyed Xiao Yan with his ordinary garbs. Her eyebrows involuntarily pressed together. After throwing a disdainful look to him, she faced the two big men blocking the entrance and snorted, “Move aside. Is it fun to block the way?”

“Ha ha, Lin Fei Xiao-Jie should be coming here to take the test for a tier one alchemist, right? Grandmaster Ao Tuo lives up to his reputation as one of the best alchemists in Black Rock City. In just three short years, he's able to let miss become a true alchemist.” The girl's voice was impolite but the two large men hurriedly gave an apologetic smile. They quickly moved their bodies aside and created a pathway.

“Be reassured that once I become an alchemist, none of you will be treated shabbily!”

As the lady laughed, her gaze carelessly drifted toward the ordinarily dressed Xiao Yan. Although her teacher and father had frequently taught her not to judge a book by its appearance, after sizing Xiao Yan up carefully, she could not find anything special about him. If one were to talk about appearance, there were many in Black Rock City who were more handsome than him. Even if Xiao Yan was stronger than a seven star Dou Zhe, it was nothing special in her eyes. In this Black Rock City, even a Dou Shi would have to respectfully call her Lin Fei Xiao-Jie when they saw her.

Gradually withdrawing her gaze, Lin Fei shook her head slightly and finally removed all her attention from Xiao Yan. During this first encounter, she may not have had any disdain in her heart towards him but she did not bother to remember him either. She simply treated him as an ordinary passerbyer.

“Ugh, let’s go. Girl, you better not cause me to lose face today. Otherwise that old man Frank would definitely not give up the chance to laugh at me.” At that moment, the old man behind the girl lazily arrived and teased her.

“Grandmaster Ao Tuo!” Seeing the old man, the two large guards hurriedly and respectfully bowed and greeted the old man.

“Hehe.” The old man who was addressed as Grandmaster Ao Tuo smiled and nodded to the two. He took a step forward and swept his gaze around. Suddenly, he stopped on Xiao Yan who was bored from waiting. He could not help but still slightly. For some unknown reason, he could vaguely feel that the young man in front of him was different. As for what exactly it was, he was unable to explain it.

“Relax, Teacher. Isn’t it simply just refining a medicinal pill that has taken shape? Do you think that this would pose a challenge to your disciple?” Lin Fei smiled lovingly as she pulled Grandmaster Ao Tuo’s arm, acting like a spoilt child.

TL: Pills that don't "take shape" aren't counted as pills and thus those who refine those are known as "physicians"

Patting Lin Fei's head in a pampering matter, Ao Tuo gave Xiao Yan beside him a kind smile before pulling Lin Fei and headed into the interior of the Alchemist Association.

"Teacher, why are you so nice to that person? This isn't usual style." After walking into the association, Lin Fei asked in a surprised voice.

"Haha, I somehow feel that the guy has something different about him but I can't describe it. Maybe it is just a hallucination..." Ao Tuo smiled and carelessly said.

Hearing this, Lin Fei helplessly shook her head as she followed Ao Tuo and quickly walked toward the inside of the building.

"Little boy, have you found the recommendation letter from your teacher?" After sending off Ao Tuo with his gaze, one of the large guards once again smiled and asked Xiao Yan. However, there was suspicion in his expression that belied his thoughts that Xiao Yan would not be able to take it out. Naturally, the truth was as he suspected.

"I'm sorry. I don't possess such a thing." Xiao Yan waved his hand helplessly and then scratched his chin, "That young girl just now did not appear to give you any recommendation letter to check."

"Lin Fei Xiao-Jie's teacher is the tier four alchemist, Grandmaster Ao Tuo. Don't tell me you have not heard of this name?" Hearing Xiao Yan's question, the gaze that the large man used on Xiao Yan was the one that was reserved for fools.

Sighing helplessly, Xiao Yan suddenly extended his hand in a gradual manner.

"What do you plan to do?" Seeing Xiao Yan's action, the two large men's expression immediately changed. They instantly grabbed their weapon from their waist and shouted.

Ignoring the two of them, Xiao Yan gaze focused on his palm. A moment later, a tempestuous purple colored flame suddenly rose from his palm.

The high temperature from the Purple Flame caused the two men expressions to change drastically.

“ Real Agglomerated Fire? Tier four Alchemist?”

The startled voices disbelievingly escaped from the mouths of the two of them. With their experience from frequently guarding the Alchemist Association, they naturally knew that a Real Agglomerated Fire was something that required being a tier four alchemist to create. However... if the one who summoned a Real Fire was an extremely old man, they would still be somewhat calm. Except, the person in front of them... was obviously a young man who had yet to reach twenty!

“Sorry but I’m not a tier four alchemist. For some reason, however, I am able to summon it, that’s all.” Xiao Yan’s gaze glanced around and realized that there were many people who were attracted by the two guard’s shout. Some of them who had sharp eyes clearly saw the Purple Flame on Xiao Yan’s hand. Outside the Alchemist Association, there were a few who were so shocked that their intake of cold air was clearly heard.

Observing this scene, Xiao Yan shook his head helplessly. He could only shake his hand and quickly extinguish the Purple Flame as he faced the two guards and asked, “Now, can I go in?”

“Yes, of course. Little b... oh, Sir, please enter!” After exchanging a glance, the two guards quickly bowed their bodies and respectfully said.

Seeing that he had to use such a troublesome manner just to enter the building, Xiao Yan could only laugh bitterly in his heart. His inclination to keep a low profile was coming back to bite him.; not only did he not have an Alchemist badge, he also never had a rank badge from the Rank Association.

TL: For Dou Zhe/Dou Shi and other ranks

Sighing, Xiao Yan flicked his sleeves with his finger before gradually stepping forward and entering this building which housed those that had the highest status among all who lived in this Black Rock City.

Chapter 164: The Alchemist Association

Entering the Alchemist Association, a faint medicinal scent pounced out, giving people a refreshed feeling.

The interior of the hall did not have many people, with only a few people quietly performing their own work. Appearing to have heard the sound of footsteps, some of them lifted their head and swept their gazes toward the young man who was carrying a huge black ruler on his back that seemed to be almost dragging him to the ground. After confusion flashed in their eyes, they began to once again bury themselves in their work. They did not think that anyone had the courage to create a disturbance in the Alchemist Association.

Standing in the somewhat deserted large hall, Xiao Yan helplessly shook his head. He was about to find someone to inquire about the procedure for obtaining an Alchemist tier badge when a young lady in a pale green dress hurriedly came from behind a counter and swiftly strided toward Xiao Yan.

“This... mister, seeing your unfamiliar face, this should be your first time coming to our Black Rock City’s Alchemist Association, no?” She quickly walked to the front of Xiao Yan with a smile, the green clad lady’s eyes completely scanned Xiao Yan before she asked with a smile.

“Yes.” Xiao Yan sized up the lady in green. Her beautiful bright eyes and white teeth were quite lovable. Xiao Yan smiled and said, “It is indeed my first time. I hope to obtain an Alchemist Tier Badge.”

“Oh? You are also an alchemist?” Hearing Xiao Yan’s words, the green clad lady was obviously startled. Her beautiful eyes swept over Xiao Yan as she spoke in a stunned voice.

“Yes, can you please tell me what procedures there are?” Without taking the shock in the lady’s eyes to heart, Xiao Yan smiled and nodded,

“This way please.” Seeing Xiao Yan nod his head in acknowledgement, the lady in green appeared slightly discomposed. Her pretty face was clearly more respectful as she took a few steps back and came to the front

of a counter while smiling at Xiao Yan.

From the counter, green clad lady took out a pale yellow ancient looking parchment made of goat skin. Then her hand elegantly held a pen brush and raised her head. She gave Xiao Yan a full smile. "Sir, please tell me your name, age and teacher's name. I need to register for you."

"Xiao Yan, nineteen, teacher... Yao Lao." Xiao Yan thought quietly for a while before replying with a smile.

"Mister is really young and promising."

When she heard Xiao Yan's age, Ya Han could not help but sigh with shock in her heart. She smiled as she flattered him. Her eyebrows suddenly creased together as she paused the pen brush in her hands. After thinking for a long time, she embarrassingly said, "Sir, your teacher's name does not appear to be in the records of our Alchemist Association."

"He likes to live in isolation so he has never come to register. Why? Do I need him to be in the record for me to get the badge? If that's the case, then let's forget about it." Xiao Yan frowned and shook his head. He turned around and prepared to leave; it was unexpected to him that the process was so troublesome.

"Sir, please wait." Seeing that Xiao Yan was about to leave, Ya Han hurriedly said, "Although your teacher isn't in the record, if you manage to pass the test, you can still obtain a tier badge."

Hearing this, Xiao Yan finally paused his footsteps and let out a sigh of relief in his heart. He turned around and smiled at Ya Han.

After quickly tidying up the things on the table, Ya Han held Xiao Yan's registration form in her hand and gestured with her other hand to lead the way as she said, "Sir, please follow me. If you pass the test for a tier, you will be able to successfully obtain a badge for that tier. Ah... you should be here to take the test for the first tier alchemist, aren't you?" Ya Han's delicate hand flipped through the information that Xiao Yan gave as she randomly asked with a smile.

"No. Tier two." Xiao Yan shook his head and softly replied with a smile.

Ya Han's footsteps suddenly paused, causing Xiao Yan to nearly knock into her body which had come to an abrupt stop. However, it was fortunate that he stopped in time. Immediately, he doubtfully eyed the gentle and beautiful figure of Ya Han in front of him.

"You said... You are here to take the test for a tier two alchemist?" Turning her head, Ya Han widened her small, moist, red mouth. She stared at Xiao Yan with shock. Nineteen years old and he wants to take the test for a tier two alchemist? This was a first in the Alchemist Association of the Jia Ma Empire!

"Yes, are there any problems?" Xiao Yan nodded as he asked faintly.

"No... not at all." Recovering, Ya Han quickly shook her head. The respectfulness in the gaze she gave Xiao Yan grew as she softly said, "Mister Xiao Yan..."

"Just call me Xiao Yan." Xiao Yan shook his head as he interrupted with a smile.

"Haha, alright." After working in the Alchemist Association for some time and coming across quite a number of big shots, Ya Han wasn't one to use extra courtesies. Hence, hearing Xiao Yan's words, she also saved the mouthful of an address. With a smile she inquired, "You have never received an alchemist badge before, have you?"

"Yes."

"Since it is like this, you must first take the test for the tier one alchemist. Only if you are successfully promoted, can you continue to take the test for a tier two alchemist." Ya Han smiled as she explained the procedure of the test to Xiao Yan.

"Oh, then I'll take them one at a time." Hearing the explanation, Xiao Yan was a little startled before he helplessly nodded.

The smiling Ya Fei gradually slowed. A moment later, she stopped in front of a huge door. Outside there were four large and fierce men who were fully armed and guarding it.

When Xiao Yan's eyes swept across the chest of the four burly men, he

felt a slight awe in his heart. He realized that these four men were all nine star Dou Zhes. Moreover, from the long and steady breathing of one of them, it was obvious that he had stayed at the level for a long time. Seeing the occasional glint that appeared in his eyes, it appeared that he would soon enter the grade of a Dou Shi.

“Uncle Te Ya, has the examination inside started?” Ya Han handed over Xiao Yan’s information in her hand to the strongest man as she smiled and asked.

“Hehe, not yet, but it would soon start. Have you brought another new person here? Looks like he’s quite good.” The one who was addressed as Te Ya swept his gaze on Xiao Yan’s body and felt a surprise rise in his heart. With his strength, he actually failed to see the true strength of the young man in front of him.

“Oh, alright. Let’s go in.”

After carefully studying the information and stamp on the registration form, Te Ya finally took out a black armband. On the armband was the number ‘5’ written in a large font. “This is your testing number. Don’t lose it.”

After receiving the armband, Xiao Yan wrapped it around his arm and smiled as he thanked Te Ya.

“Xiao Yan, you will have to go in by yourself. According to regulations, we cannot carelessly walk into the room.” Seeing that the administrative procedure had completed, Ya Han said softly.

“Ah, thank you very much!” Xiao Yan nodded his head while smiling. He then cupped his hands together before stepping up to open the large door. The spacious large hall was so brightly lit that it appeared like it was daytime. There were quite a number of people clustered in the hall and many whispers and laughter would occasionally appear in the hall.

Xiao Yan’s gaze swept across the chest area of these people and was surprised to find that most of them were true alchemists.

Among the crowd, Xiao Yan had also found two Tier Four alchemists.

One of them was Grandmaster Ao Tuo whom Xiao Yan had seen earlier. The other was also an elderly person. Hearing the way the surrounding people addressed him, Xiao Yan realised that this old man was the chairman of the Black Rock City Alchemist Association, Fu Lan Ke.

At the center of the hall, there were over ten meticulously arranged stone tables that were separated from each other. On the stone tables, many different instruments for refining medicine were neatly placed. At this moment, around seven or eight anxious young people were at these stone tables; the girl called Lin Fei was incidentally among them.

“Fu Lan Ke, where is Xue Mei? Why has she not appeared? The examination is about to start!” Ao Tuo swept his eyes toward the hourglass on the table before tilting his head as he asked Fu Lan Ke beside him who was chatting with someone else.

“Don’t worry, don’t worry. This is Xue Mei’s first test. Naturally she wants to be completely prepared.” Waving his hand, Fu Lan Ke eyed the impatiently waiting Ao Tuo, a smile appearing on his old face.

Hearing this, Ao Tuo curled his lips and snorted, “There’s still ten minutes. If she’s still not here, you cannot delay the start of the examination for her, even if you are the chairman.”

With a smile, Fu Lan Ke turned his head and swept his gaze across the large hall. Finally, he paused and stared at the young man who had unknowingly arrived. After glancing at the armband on his arm, Fu Lan Ke involuntarily asked in a surprised voice, “Kid, are you also here to take the alchemist test?”

Seeing so many people in the same occupation for the first time, Xiao Yan was a little excited. When he heard Fu Lan Ke’s question, he was a little surprised but he quickly nodded his head.

When he saw Xiao Yan nodding his head, Fu Lan Ke’s eyes were filled with even greater amazement. He asked with a smile, “How old are you?”

“Nineteen.” Not understanding what this person, who obviously held a high position, was thinking, Xiao Yan could only answer honestly.

“Oh?” Having heard Xiao Yan’s answer, not only did Fu Lan Ke let out a shocked sound, even Ao Tuo also turned his gaze over. When he noticed Xiao Yan, he was momentarily stunned. An instant later, he laughed, “I said that I felt something different from this kid before. So you’re actually an alchemist. But why did I not feel it just now? Normally, it should be very difficult for someone who is weaker than me to hide their identity.”

Hearing Ao Tuo words, Xiao Yan could only display a loose face and shook his head pretending not to understand. With Yao Lao’s protection, how could a tier four alchemist discover the true extent of Xiao Yan’s alchemy abilities? Luckily, Ao Tuo did not attempt to get to the bottom of the matter. When he saw Xiao Yan’s ignorant manner, he ceased his questioning.

“Tsk tsk. Nineteen? Old Ao Tuo, this young man’s age is quite a bit younger than both of our disciples.” Fu Lan Ke praised while clicking his tongue.

“You should praise him after he successfully passes. Although these words may sound mocking but two years ago didn’t Lin Fei come and take the test when she was nineteen?” Ao Tuo said as he shook his head. He did not have any intention of looking down on Xiao Yan but attempting to get an alchemist badge at the age of nineteen was something that had never happened in the Alchemist Association of Black Rock City.

“That girl of yours was here to purely create trouble. The her then nearly caused the medicinal furnace to explode.” Fu Lan Ke shook his head as he scolded with a smile. Although he had said those words just now, he also understood that taking the Alchemist test at nineteen was difficult.

After all, in order to become a true Alchemist, other than having innate Spiritual Perception, one must become a true Dou Zhe. Additionally, after becoming a Dou Zhe, one must begin to learn about the art of alchemy under the close guidance of a teacher. This step would require at least a year of time!

In summary, for a nineteen year old to become a tier one alchemist, he must become a Dou Zhe at eighteen or even seventeen. This kind of

terrifying training talent may be even more rare when compared to the uncommon Spiritual Perception that an alchemist required.

Hence, even though Fu Lan Ke had vast experience, it was difficult for him to imagine the young man in front of him would successfully pass the test.

“Please. Don’t think that I don’t know about the time that you privately gave Xue Mei an alchemy test where she also blew up the medicinal cauldron.”

Seeing the two old men who were exposing each other’s secrets, Xiao Yan could only helplessly shake his head. He was about to open his mouth to inquire when a faint voice that was slightly icy suddenly sounded from behind him.

“Teacher, I’m sorry that I’m late,”

The sudden icy but lovely voice was like the clear sound of snow rocks on a snow mountain tapping on one another, unleashing an extremely moving sound. At the very least, after the voice sounded, Xiao Yan found that over half of the young men in the hall turned their slightly heated gazes toward the area behind Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan pursed his lips as he slowly turned around curiously to watch a lady in a silver dress elegantly walk in from the huge doorway. His eyebrows straightened as an obscure amazement flashed across his gaze.

Chapter 165: The Test for a Tier One Alchemist

At the doorway, there was a tall figure with transparent eyes like the cold clear spring on top of a snowy mountain, an exquisite face, and long eyebrows. On her tall and nimble body was a tight silver colored dress. The silver colored clothing and her warm jade like skin complimented each other, giving the girl a special icy metallic beauty. What caused others to be most amazed about was that this girl in a silver dressed actually possessed long silver hair that extended to her waist.

This silver color was not the pale silver color of illness. Rather, it was like soft and gentle silver threads. As it drifted, it gave the silver clad girl a strange attraction.

After his gaze carefully sized her up, Xiao Yan could not stop praising in his heart. No wonder this girl was able to cause most of the gazes in the hall to heat up. This kind of loveliness and demeanor was considered to be excellent.

When compared to her, the one known as Lin Fei lacked this kind of spiritual demeanor. The soft and gentle silvery hair with full luster was easy to cause other females to feel a little jealous in their hearts.

After sweeping his gaze around, Xiao Yan slowly withdrew it. He moved his body slightly and consciously opened up a small path.

The silver clad girl slowly walked forward. She ignored Xiao Yan as she passed him and directly headed for Frank.

Standing by the side, Xiao Yan sniffed the faint body fragrance she left behind as she passed and praised with a smile in his heart. "Excellent quality."

"Teacher!" As she arrived in front of Frank, a faint smile surfaced on the exquisite face of the silver clad girl. In an instant, that smile was like a snow lotus that bloomed on an icy mountain, giving everyone a feeling of beauty.

“Haha, you are finally here. Ao Tuo old man had already become impatient.” With a gentle gaze, Frank stared at the student he was most proud of as he said in a pleased voice.

“Grandmaster Ao Tuo!” The silver clad girl tilted her head and greeted Ao Tuo, who was rolling his eyes.

“Xue Mei really knows her manners. Compared to my... cough. Alright, alright. Since you are here, let’s quickly start.” As Ao Tuo smiled and nodded, he turned around and noticed his student pursing her small mouth. Involuntarily he shook his head and quickly changed his words.

Nodding slightly, Xue Mei also walked toward the stone table under everyone’s gaze. Between her and Lin Fei was an empty table.

When the two’s eyes met, there were some sparks. It appeared that the two of them were not harmonious.

“Hmm, please do not cause the cauldron to explode later. It is alright if you fail but don’t disturb me.” Lin Fei raised her pretty nose and softly snorted as her hand tapped lightly on a medicinal cauldron of the same model.

“I think that even if you are not distracted, your chances of failure would not be small.” Xue Mei smiled faintly. Although she appeared icy on the surface, it was difficult for her to remain calm in the face of her rival of a few years.

“Cough, alright...” Noticing that the smell of gunpowder was already becoming increasingly dense between the two despite the fact that the examination had yet to begin, Frank could only helplessly shake his head. After which, he faced Xiao Yan who was in a corner, “Young man, why don’t you go there. I am looking forward to your performance, haha. Even if you were to fail, it is alright. You have a lot of time ahead of you.”

Listening to the meaning in his words, it appeared that Frank did not hold much hope for Xiao Yan successfully passing the test.

Shrugging his shoulders, Xiao Yan looked toward the place where Frank pointed to. He could not help but shake his head helplessly. This was

because he realized that the spot was right between the two girls who were in a belligerent mood.

When the two girls who were giving a tit for a tat with each other heard Frank's arrangement, they involuntarily glanced at Xiao Yan. Although Xiao Yan could not be considered as the kind of extremely handsome man who would cause women to throw themselves at him upon first glance, he would at the very least not cause those who saw him to feel disgusted. Thus, neither of them voiced their rejection. After randomly taking a glance, they withdrew their gaze and started to check the tools needed to refine medicine on the stone table.

Helplessly shaking his head, Xiao Yan ignored the jealous gaze the few young people of the same occupation as he slowly walked toward the stone table. The corner of his eyes swept across his two sides. The two different beautiful auras of the girls allowed him to comfort himself before he started to check the tools on the stone table.

The basic requirement for a tier one alchemist was that the person must be able to successfully refine a medicinal pill that had been shaped. The type of medicinal pill was something that was randomly decided by the Alchemist Association. Xiao Yan grabbed a parchment made of goatskin from the stone table and took a glance. This was a medicinal formula, one that was for a medicinal pill known as the Amassing Strength Pill. This Amassing Strength Pill had the effect of causing the user to gain some strength for a short while after consuming it. Among the tier one medicinal pills, this kind of medicinal pill might only be barely considered as middle grade but for a newcomer who was taking the test for the first time, this was undoubtedly a challenge.

Holding the Amassing Strength Pill Medicinal Formula in his hand, Xiao Yan's gaze drifted left and right. He realized that everyone seemed to have obtained a different medicinal formula. From the expressions of the two girls beside him, it appeared that they were confident in the medicinal pill that they were required to make.

"Don't tell me that these two old men were trying to make things difficult?" Xiao Yan mumbled in his heart. He glanced at Frank whose face

was filled with smiles and helplessly shook his head. Once again, he turned his gaze onto the stone table.

On the stone table were the ingredients needed for the Amassing Strength Pill. Only three sets of ingredients were prepared. In other words, whoever completely used up these three sets of medicinal ingredients during the refinement process and did not produce anything, would be considered to have failed the test.

Beside the medicinal ingredients, a few jade bottles of quite good color were placed nearby. It appeared that they were meant to be used to store the final pill.

After taking a brief glance at most of the things on the stone table, Xiao Yan's heart gradually calmed. With his current alchemist ability, successfully refining this Amassing Strength Pill should not require too much energy. Moreover, with the help from the Purple Flame, his current alchemist skill had been strengthened even further. A mere medicinal pill that was barely considered a tier one medicinal pill did not possess the ability to trouble him.

As no one had announced the start of the examination, Xiao Yan's gaze randomly swept across his two sides. After a rough glance at the medicinal ingredients placed on the two girls' stone table, Xiao Yan pursed up his lips. After being influenced by Yao Lao, Xiao Yan could now roughly guess the type of medicinal pill the other two were attempting to refine by briefly glancing at the medicinal ingredients prepared.

"Wound Healing Pill, Congeal Flame Pill... dammit. Why is it that my medicinal formula is harder?" Xiao Yan muttered in an unsatisfied voice in his heart. His Amassing Strength Pill was undoubtedly the hardest when compared with both Xue Mei and Lin Fei's medicinal formulas.

"Dammit. These two old men are abusing their power..." Being helpless to change the situation, Xiao Yan could only viciously slander Frank and Ao Tuo in his heart.

"Are all of you done checking? If there's no problem, then... the examination has started!"

Upon noticing that no one had spoken up after sweeping his gaze across the stone tables, Frank waved his hand. A force escaped from his hand and smashed down on an ancient metal bell in the hall. Immediately, a clear chime floated within the hall.

Hearing the clock chime, all the examination candidates at the stone table other than Xiao Yan quickly placed their hands on the fire outlet of the medicinal cauldron. The Dou Qi in their body surged out and instantly a flame began rising within their medicinal cauldrons after a muffled 'puff' sound.

After the flame rose within the medicinal cauldrons, a transparent light curtain slowly began to appear on the outside. The light curtain formed a square shape which completely surrounded the examinee within it.

Following the appearance of the light curtain cover, the whisperings in the hall completely became quiet. Everyone was entirely focused as they stared at the examinees' actions. Occasionally, when they noticed new faces who were quite good with their ability, they would secretly nod their heads.

Standing in front of the stone table, Xiao Yan turned his head and looked at his surroundings. He realized that other than Xue Mei and Lin Fei, whose Dou Qi flames were a little darker, the flame in everyone's cauldron were all a pale yellow color. Obviously, their strengths were below that of a four star Dou Zhe.

Within the stone tables, everyone was beginning to refine their own medicine. Only Xiao Yan continued to foolishly look at his surroundings. His manner was like a crane among a group of chickens and it was difficult for anyone to not notice him.

"That kid, what is he doing?" With a frown, Frank uncertainly asked as he looked at Xiao Yan.

"This... I don't know." Waving his hand, Ao Tuo was also a little puzzled. Was it possible that this kid did not even know how to start a fire? If it was like this, wouldn't it be too much of a comedy?

"Cough... does he have a recommendation letter from a teacher? Let me

see who taught this student...” Frank waved his hand and called one of his subordinate over and said.

“Chairman, he does not seem to have a recommendation letter. However, on his record, there is someone called Yao Lao who is his alchemist teacher...” That subordinate smiled bitterly after flipping through Xiao Yan’s information.

“Yao Lao?” Blinking his eyes in ignorance, Frank tilted his head and eyed Ao Tuo. “Have you heard of this name?”

“I have muddled along in the Jia Ma Empire for decades... but I have never heard of any alchemist teacher who has the qualification to accept students called Yao Lao.” Regarding this foreign name, Ao Tuo’s head was similarly filled with fog.

“Forget it. We will ask in greater detail when the time’s up. From the looks of things, I feel that we have been tricked by that kid.”

After irritably throwing the information in his hand toward his subordinate, Frank’s expression was a little ugly. After all, if a joke like this actually happened in the branch that he was in charge of and news were to spread, he would likely be mocked by the Alchemist Association branches of other cities.

Just as Frank and others outside were irritated at Xiao Yan’s action, Xue Mei and Lin Fei from within the light curtains also glanced at this far too odd young man with stunned expressions. Did this guy think that it was time to be fooling around?

Xiao Yan naturally did not know that his hesitation had attracted the attention of so many people. After musing for a long while, he let out a light sigh and slowly placed his hand on the fire outlet. In his heart, he helplessly said, “Whatever, it’s just a slightly unique flame. They won’t possibly jail me and slice me apart to study it...”

After comforting himself in his heart, the Dou Qi in Xiao Yan’s body began to rush forth, swiftly passing through his Qi Paths and moving along his palms. With a soft sound, it entered the medicinal cauldron.

“Bang.” Following a muted sound, a tempestuous purple colored flame suddenly rose within the medicinal cauldron.

At the same time outside the light curtain, Frank was irritably grabbing a cup of tea from his subordinate. He was just about to take a sip when the corner of his eyes suddenly noticed the purple colored flame that rose in Xiao Yan’s medicinal cauldron. Instantly, his eyes abruptly widened. With a ‘puff’ sound, the tea in his mouth was spat out in a rough manner...

The tea wetted his clothes but Frank ignored it. His finger was shaking as he pointed to Xiao Yan within the light curtain. In a shocked voice, he cried out involuntarily, “Purple colored flame? ‘Heavenly Flame’?”

Hearing this, the entire hall was instantly dead quiet. Numerous gazes suddenly turned toward Xiao Yan behind the light curtain...

Chapter 166: Passing the Test

“That guy... actually summoned a purple colored flame? Don't tell me... it's a 'Heavenly Flame'!? How can it be?”

All the alchemists within the hall stared at the soaring and burning purple flame in the medicinal cauldron with shock. Since there was a light curtain separating them, they could not be certain of the exact details of the flame. However, the color of the flame was definitely not an ordinary Dou Qi Flame created from condensed Dou Qi.

“Heavenly Flame?” Frank and Ao Tuo exchanged glances and immediately shook their heads.

“Doesn't look like it... moreover, with that kid's strength, he should not be able to control the intense Heavenly Flame with such ease!” Ao Tuo stared intently at the Purple Flame that was rising under the control of Xiao Yan's Spiritual Perception as he said in a deep voice.

“There is indeed some difference. A 'Heavenly Flame' isn't so easy to control...” Frank wiped the water stains on his beard. The expression on his face was extremely serious.

“But why is his flame purple in color?” Frank and Ao Tuo frowned. They felt a little ignorant. Neither had heard of any flame other than a flame that was refined from a Heavenly Flame that was entirely purple in color.

“This kid... isn't simple. No wonder he dares to take the test for a tier one alchemist at such a young age. He actually has some background. Looking at the richness of the Purple Flame, this kid's strength is at least that of a five star Dou Zhe. What frightening training talent!” Frank sighed after he gradually calmed down.

“I was saying that I had a strange feeling when I met him for the first time. It was really unexpected that he could actually hide his ability under my nose. This kid, is quite mysterious...” Ao Tuo pulled on his long beard as he gave Frank a smile, “I suddenly have a desire to meet his teacher. I want to know just who could actually teach such an outstanding student. Ugh, compared to him, Xue Mei and Lin Fei are a grade lower.”

“Yes.” Frank nodded his head slightly and said with a smile, “To think that after these two girls fought for so long, they both ended up receiving a surprise blow from this young man called Xiao Yan. It is also just as well to let them learn the meaning of the two phrases ‘there is no limit to one’s ability’ and ‘there is always someone stronger than you’.”

“Circulate a message to the other cities Alchemist Association and seek their help in finding out whether there is a high tier Alchemist known as Yao Lao. Being able to groom such a student, he should not be someone unknown.” Frank waved his hand and called an alchemist over before he whispered his order.

The alchemist respectfully nodded his head before he stealthily left the hall.

In the corner, Ao Tuo simply smiled as he watched what happened. After which, he once again shifted his gaze toward the interior of the light curtain. In a soft voice, he said, “Although he may be able to control this unique Purple Flame, refining pills does not simply involve on the flame. One’s Spiritual Awareness, control of the flame, the quantity of the different medicinal ingredients needed etc, are all very important points. Now, we should just continue watching....”

Frank nodded his head. As a tier four alchemist, he naturally knew all this already. Therefore, he did not continue speaking. Instead, he silently looked at the young man behind the light curtain who was entirely focused on refining the medicinal pill.

Following their quietness, the hall once again fell into silence. This time around, however, most of the gazes were placed on Xiao Yan. Many people wanted to know whether this young man who could control a flame that appeared similar to a ‘Heavenly Flame’ would still be able to maintain an outstanding performance in the other criterias.

Xiao Yan, who was behind the light curtain, naturally did not have the leisure of observing the commotion in the hall caused by the Purple Flame. His gaze roughly swept across the stone table. Then he pick up a few types of medicinal ingredients at a speed that was neither fast nor

slow before throwing them into the medicinal cauldron in an orderly and continuous manner. Under the suppression of his Spiritual Awareness, the ferocious Purple Flame was as docile as a sheep as it gently surrounded the medicinal ingredients that were thrown into the medicinal cauldron. After which, he began refining the essences of the different medicinal ingredients needed for the 'Amassing Strength Pill'.

Under Xiao Yan's gentle refining, the initial shape of the 'Amassing Strength Pill' was gradually formed within the medicinal cauldron.

Every stone table within the light curtain was separated by a smaller square-shaped light curtain. However, Xiao Yan's Purple Flame was far too unique, causing the two beside him, Xue Mei and Lin Fei, to notice something not long after the Purple Flame was released. They tilted their heads over and their beautiful eyes widened when the soaring Purple Flame appeared in their sight. After a faint muffled sound, the medicinal ingredients they were refining in their medicinal cauldrons were burnt to ashes by their flame due to their attention being diverted. Ignoring the medicinal ingredients that had turned to ashes, the two girls opened their red sleek small mouths and blankly stared at the the Purple Flame that was cool, hot, and warm under Xiao Yan's control. A moment later, they could not help but inhale a cool breath in his heart.

Although they did not know what the Purple Flame that Xiao Yan had was, they knew it was definitely harder to control compared to their dark yellow Dou Qi flame after looking at the extent of turbulence within the flame.

However, from the leisurely manner of the young man in front of them, it appeared that he was very proficient in the control of this Purple Flame. This extent of control was something that caused even the proud Xue Mei and Lin Fei to feel inferior to.

The gazes of the two girls shifted away from the medicinal cauldron. Finally, as though they had a tacit understanding, they placed their gazes onto the young man whose entire attention was focused on what was happening within the medicinal cauldron.

At that moment, the delicate and handsome face of the young man did not reveal the slightest bit of anxiety. A faint purple color was imprinted on his face due to the soaring Purple Flame. However, the exceedingly calm and leisurely demeanor almost caused the two young girls to think that the person in front of them was not an immature young man who was younger than twenty. Instead, he appeared as though he was a high-tier alchemist with a wealth of refining experience.

This kind of calm and leisurely demeanor was something that Xue Mei and Lin Fei could only see when their teachers were refining medicine. At this moment, however, the young man in front of them had once again let them experience it.

The gazes of the two girls met briefly in midair and both of them witnessed a bitter smile and defeat. "Uh..." Their gazes once again circled to Xiao Yan's body and Xue Mei sighed gently. Her hand gently combed the silver hair on her forehead before she withdrew her attention and once again focused on her medicinal cauldron.

"This guy hid everything so well... I was actually mistaken by his appearance..." Once again, Lin Fei glanced at Xiao Yan as she muttered. The Xiao Yan who had been a simple passerby in her heart just a moment ago had risen to someone of high status who possessed a frightening talent and should be treated with the utmost respect.

Shaking her head, Lin Fei bitterly smiled and sighed again as she thought of the swiftness in the change of their positions. After which, she threw the second set of medicinal ingredients into the medicinal cauldron and began the refinement.

Xiao Yan, who had placed all his attention within the medicinal cauldron, naturally did not realize that the two girls were watching him a moment ago. His eyes were simply staring intently at the interior of the medicinal cauldron.

Under Xiao Yan's concentration, time flew by quickly. After the medicinal pill in the medicinal cauldron flipped and rolled for an unknown number of times, it finally began to become round. Seeing the

luster on the surface of the medicinal pill, Xiao Yan smiled. His palm slowly moved away from the medicinal cauldron. As his hand left, the purple colored flame in the medicinal cauldron also gradually disappeared.

Xiao Yan's finger lightly flicked and the cover of the medicinal cauldron was flipped open by a gentle wind. Xiao Yan's hand then beckoned, prompting a pale yellow colored medicinal pill to shoot out of the medicinal cauldron and fly toward him.

Swiftly grabbing a jade bottle with his palm, Xiao Yan quickly waved it in front of him. The pale yellow medicinal pill was then precisely stored within it.

Xiao Yan raised his head after gradually putting the bottle down. He realized that the sheet of light around him had unknowingly been removed and that the surrounding gazes were all staring intently at him.

"Uhh... is the test time up?" Turning his head to look around, Xiao Yan found that Xue Mei and Lin Fei beside him were also staring at him and could not help but speak in an embarrassed voice.

Seeing Xiao Yan's embarrassed expression, Xue Mei stilled slightly. She immediately nodded her head with a smile. Her cool voice was slightly gentler than it had been before, "The test was over a few minutes ago. However, teacher saw that you did not seem to have finished so he waited for a while. Relax, you will not lose your qualification to take the test because of this."

Xiao Yan smiled at Xue Mei gratefully before raising his head and watch the smiling Frank and Ao Tuo who were walking over.

Slowly walking to the front of the stone tables, Frank glanced at Xiao Yan with a deeper meaning, he then smiled and laughed, "Little kid, you hide things very well."

Xiao Yan waved his hand but did not say anything.

Frank and Ao Tuo first alternated to retrieve the medicinal pills Xue Mei and Ling Fei refined and carefully observed the medicinal pill's color, luster etc. They nodded to each other and smiled, "Not bad. Although

there was some shortcoming in the flame's strength, these still meet the standard to pass the test."

Hearing this, Xue Mei and Lin Fei gently let out a relaxed sigh.

After checking the two ladies' medicinal pills, Frank and Ao Tuo did not immediately check Xiao Yan's. Instead, they bypassed him and lifted the medicinal pills of the other six behind Xiao Yan to judge. Among these six, only two met the requirement. The other four lowered their heads in a crestfallen manner.

"Ha ha, all of you need not feel dejected. If you cannot do it this year, then do it the next year. Young people may not have much else but they do have lots of time." Seeing the manner of the four, Frank smiled and encouraged them before exchanging a glance with Ao Tuo. The two of them once again arrived in front of Xiao Yan.

Seeing Frank and Ao Tuo's action, the gazes in the hall gradually stopped on Xiao Yan.

Beside him, Xue Mei and Lin Fei were also curiously staring at Xiao Yan. They also wanted to know the standard of the medicinal pill that the guy who could control a mysterious flame managed to refine.

Lifting the goatskin parchment from Xiao Yan's table, Frank glanced at it. His old face changed slightly as he said in an astonished manner, "Amassing Strength Pill?"

"Uh..." Hearing this, Ao Tuo also slightly stilled. Appearing as though he realized something, Ao Tuo immediately said with a smile, "No wonder this little boy took a little more time. You actually got this medicinal formula."

Hearing the name 'Amassing Strength Pill'. Xue Mei and Lin Fei helplessly shook their head. Just by comparing the level of difficulty of the medicinal formula, they were already inferior.

"Tsk tsk, the little kid does indeed have some ability. To successfully refine the 'Amassing Strength Pill'. This medicinal pill is something that even some real tier one alchemists would have difficulty refining."

Smacking his lips in amazement, Frank poured out the medicinal pill from the jade bottle. Instantly, a pale yellow colored round medicinal pill around the size of a thumb playfully rolled out. It was entirely pale yellow with some faint dark green ripples that was mixed within, appearing like a spreading ripple and giving it a strange appearance.

“Pill-Lines...”

Seeing the circular dark green ripples, Frank and Ao Tuo once again smacked their lips in amazement. When refining medicinal pills, these Pill-Lines would usually only appear on the refined medicinal pill that had peak color and luster.

Hearing the words ‘Pill-Lines’, Xue Mei and Lin Fei knew that during this examination, the both of them could not be compared with this young man beside them.

“Congratulations, Xiao Yan. You have passed the test for a tier one alchemist.”

After replacing the medicinal pill into the jade bottle, Frank gradually sighed and told the young man with a smile.

Hearing this, everyone in the hall looked at the lucky young man behind the stone table with both envy and surprise.

“Uh... that...” Hearing these words, Xiao Yan blinked his eyes. He rubbed his head and softly said, “That... can I continue to take the test for a tier two alchemist?”

Immediately after Xiao Yan spoke, the faces of both Frank and Ao Tuo which were full of smiles just a moment ago became lifeless...

Chapter 167: The Youngest Tier Two Alchemist

“Continue to take the test for a tier two alchemist?”

Xiao Yan’s words not only caused Frank and Ao Tuo to display a dull expression but also caused the two ladies, Xue Mei and Lin Fei, beside him to suddenly pause what they were doing and lift their heads. Their faces were filled with astonishment as they blankly stared at the young man by the stone table.

Within the hall, everyone’s gazes were foolishly staring at the young man. If Xiao Yan’s success in passing a tier one alchemist test just a moment ago caused them to feel amazement in their hearts, then this next question actually caused everyone to feel stunned.

A nineteen year old tier one alchemist was uncommon but there were still many in the Jia Ma Empire. However, a nineteen year old tier two alchemist was truly rare. It should be known that even the Pill King Gu He within the Jia Ma Empire had only just become a tier one alchemist at this age.

If Xiao Yan managed to pass the test for the tier two alchemist today, would it not mean that his achievements in the future would be even greater than Pill King Gu He.

“Oh god... we might be witnessing a monster rising from the Alchemist Association at Black Rock City.” Everyone in the large hall exchanged glances with one another and immediately said with a soft, bitter laugh.

“You... should not underestimate the requirements for the test for a tier two alchemist. If you want to pass the test for a tier two alchemist, you must not only refine a tier two medicinal pill, but your strength must also reach the Dou Shi level. Dou Shi! Have you achieved it?” Tilting her head, Lin Fei eyed the smiling face of the young man and could not help but knit her eyebrows together as she spoke.

“Dou Shi...” Smiling gently, Xiao Yan watched Lin Fei’s beautiful and

moving face and laughed, “ I only want to try. Whether I pass or not doesn’t make much of a difference.”

“You really wish to take another test, this one being the tier two alchemist test?” Looking at Xiao Yan who did not display any expression of giving up after hearing Lin Fei’s words, Frank and Ao Tuo exchanged glances before asking seriously.

“There should not be any problems, is there?” Xiao Yan rubbed his head as he asked with a smile.

“How confident are you?”

Ao Tuo’s expression was slightly serious at the moment. If the young man in front of him really passed the tier two alchemist test, then he was someone with incredible talent. In the future, this person might be a new star in the alchemist scene for Jia Ma Empire who is more overbearing than the Pill King Gu He! For the alchemist scene in the empire, this was undoubtedly great news that would cause an uproar.

“Uh... around fifty percent.” Xiao Yan tightly closed his lips and analysed his success rate for refining a tier two medicinal pill before reporting a number. Since he was afraid of appearing too confident, Xiao Yan reported a somewhat conservative number.

The number may have been considered conservative in Xiao Yan’s hear, but after he reported it, Ao Tuo and Frank trembled slightly. Some of the expressions on the other people’s faces also changed.

There was quite a significant rate of failure when refining a tier two medicinal pill. Even some of the alchemists present did not dare guarantee that they would be able to achieve 50 percent success rate when refining a tier two medicinal pill! However, the young man in front of them actually wore a smile on his face as he said these words. Instantly, the few tier two alchemists in the hall began to call into question this figure in their hearts. Evidently, they did not quite believe what Xiao Yan had said even if he did own a strange type of flame.

“Fifty percent...” After mumbling in her heart, Xue Mei tilted her head and stared at the tall figure of the young man by the stone table. In her

heart, she involuntarily whispered, "Isn't this guy a little arrogant?"

"So? Can I continue taking the test? If it is really not possible, then forget it. After all, I am only making a temporary stop at Black Rock City. If I have the chance, I will go test somewhere else when I have time." Seeing that Frank and Ao Tuo did not reply, Xiao Yan helplessly shook his head before speaking.

"Wait!"

Hearing Xiao Yan's words, Frank quickly spoke. What a joke. This was an insane opportunity for the Alchemist Association in Black Rock City to show face among those of the same occupation. Thus, he would not allow Xiao Yan to run to other cities to take the test. If that were the case, it would be like giving the opportunity to others for no reason!

"Someone, immediately prepare the tier two alchemist test!" When Frank exchanged another glance with Ao Tuo, the two of them found excitement in each other's eyes. After which, he waved his hand and gave the order.

Hearing this, a few alchemists behind him hurriedly moved and swiftly walked toward a side door in the hall. On the side door were the words 'Tier Two Alchemist Test Venue'.

"Alright, I will let you take the test. Little boy, you better not be deceiving us two old men." Frank clapped his hands as he turned around and said with a laugh to Xiao Yan.

"I will do my best... Oh yes, I heard that registering with the Alchemist Association after the test will let one receive some special privileges from the Association?" Xiao Yan walked from the stone table and asked with a smile.

"Hehe, correct. When an alchemist refines medicinal pills, they usually require some extremely unique and rare plants. A person, however, cannot run all over the place to gather all these things. Hence, after you have registered at our Jia Ma Empire Alchemist Association, you will be able to enjoy the right of exchanges... For example, when you are refining a certain medicinal pill and you lack one of the medicinal ingredients which

another alchemist happens to possess, under the consensus of both parties, our association will help you complete this transaction. Of course, the prerequisite is that you must be able to take out something that the other party is satisfied with to complete the transaction.” Frank nodded his head as he said with a smile, “Naturally, if your tier is higher, you would be able to enjoy even more rights. Thus, in order to exchange something which you need from others without many obstructions, you will need to work hard to raise your tier.”

“It really is something good...” A little bit of joy appeared on Xiao Yan’s face as he nodded his head. This measure taken by the Alchemist Association would undoubtedly save the time required by an Alchemist to roam around to find ingredients. Moreover, it just so happened that Xiao Yan lacked some things right now. After he passed the test, he would definitely get Frank to help him check. If someone else really had the ingredients he needed, he would put in the utmost effort to exchange for them.

“Alright, the preparations for the test for a tier two Alchemist have been completed. Follow me.” Tilting his head, Frank watched the few alchemists taking turns to exit the small room. After he saw them nod their heads, he then spoke the words with a smile.

“Okay.” Xiao Yan nodded and subsequently followed Frank into that small room. Ao Tuo, who was behind him, also followed closely. When he was about to enter the door, he turned around and he said with a smile said to everyone outside who were extending their necks, “The examination for a tier two alchemist is different from a tier one alchemist. Thus, all of you cannot just carelessly enter. Just wait outside. There will soon be an answer.”

“Teacher... please let me go in and take a look.” Hearing Ao Tuo’s words, Lin Fei’s face became anxious as she rushed forward and tugged on Ao Tuo’s sleeve while speaking like a spoiled child.

“This has always been the rule of the Alchemist Association. Even I cannot do anything about it. You should just wait outside.” Helplessly shaking his head, Ao Tuo gently shook his sleeves, shaking Lin Fei off and

forcing her to take a small step backwards. After that, he quickly went behind the door and closed it tightly with a loud slamming noise.

“Hmph. What’s the big deal. If you don’t let me take a look, then so be it.” Eyeing the door that was tightly shut, Lin Fei snorted arrogantly and mumbled with dissatisfaction.

Turning around, Lin Fei looked at the pretty and impassive face of Xue Mei and approached her. After which, she softly whispered beside the latter, “Do you think the guy will succeed?”

“How would I know? Didn’t he say earlier that he is fifty percent confident? That seemed to be quite good.” Xue Mei said indifferently after glancing at Lin Fei beside her.

Lin Fei curled her lips as her pretty figure jumped to sit on top of the stone table. Her long legs that were revealed under the purple-colored dress created a mesmerising snow-white angle, causing the gazes of some of the men in the hall to be unable to resist the temptation and glance over.

“Ugh, I thought that it was already very impressive for us to be able to become a tier one alchemist within two years. Unexpectedly, this abnormal guy suddenly appeared. It is still alright that he is a little younger than us but he actually possesses the qualification to take the test for a tier two alchemist. Isn’t this too much of a blow to others?” Tilting her head, Lin Fei faced her rival for a number of years and helplessly said.

Hearing this, a different undertone surfaced on Xue Mei pale expression. She sighed quietly and whispered, “It is indeed quite a blow to others.”

“Back then, didn’t you say that no one among the younger generation in Black Rock City could surpass you? Now that someone has appeared, I recall that you said back then, It was something like accompanying...” Lin Fei’s crow-black eyes rotated as she suddenly spoke.

“I’m sorry but he isn’t someone from Black Rock City.” A faint crimson color surfaced on Xue Mei’s pretty face as a cunningness flashed across her pretty eyes before she told Lin Fei with a sweet smile.

“You win...” Lin Fei softly snorted as she combed through the black hair on her forehead as she laughed, “But with that guy’s talent, you would not lose out. Although your teacher is one of the key figures in Black Rock City, you should also know that to be able to teach such an abnormal student, just think how strong his teacher must be.”

“Not interested. If you like him, take him for yourself. Isn’t Grandmaster Ao Tuo’s reputation as an alchemist on par with my teacher? Moreover, your father is also the governor of Black Rock City.” Xue Mei smiled and said. Her indifferent tone, however, caused Lin Fei beside her to clench her teeth.

“Che... the people who are chasing me can form a queue up to fifteen kilometers outside the city. I don’t have the leisure to throw myself at him.” Lin Fei prettily rolled her eyes as she laughed in a spoilt voice.

The faint laughter caused Xue Mei to raise her eyebrow. Her gaze turned toward the door and her fist secretly tightened. She whispered, “They’re coming out.”

“The examination has already ended?” Hearing this, Lin Fei’s mind was shaken as she hurriedly turned her gaze toward the door.

Following a crunching sound from the door, it was gradually pulled open. Frank and Ao Tuo were first to exit. The exchanged a glance with each other before sighing softly and shaking their heads.

Seeing their actions, Lin Fei and Xue Mei frowned. Did he fail?

“This young boy’s talent in refining medicine is really frighteningly outstanding. Ugh... it’s not possible not to be impressed.”

Lifting his head, Frank waved his hand and smiled. “Looks like our Black Rock City Alchemist Association has given rise to the youngest tier two alchemist in a hundred years...”

Chapter 168: The Incredible Treatment for Alchemists

Seeing the faces of Frank and Ao Tuo which were filled with amazement, all the throats of those in the hall could not help but roll gently. Looking at the manner of these two, the young man had obviously passed the tier two test.

“What a frightening person...” Everyone looked at each other as they sighed gently in their hearts. A nineteen years old tier two alchemist. This could be considered as a new record in the Jia Ma Empire.

“This guy... actually managed to succeed? At nineteen, he has actually reached the Dou Shi level? How is this possible?” Opening her red lips, Lin Fei softly mumbled with astonishment.

Beside her, Xue Mei also nodded her head slightly. Wasn't this guy far too monstrous?

Seeing the shocked expressions of everyone in the hall, Frank and Ao Tuo also faced each other and smiled bitterly. After observing Xiao Yan refining a medicinal pill at close proximity, both of them could not help but feel amazed at the talent in refining pills that Xiao Yan had demonstrated.

Although it was Xiao Yan's first refinement using the medicinal formula provided for the test, his outstanding control of the flame was not inferior to any true tier two alchemist. Moreover, when he was refining the medicine, he was extremely accurate in refining the essence of the medicinal ingredients. If this was a very experienced tier two alchemist, Frank and Ao Tuo would not feel much surprise. However, the guy in front of them was merely nineteen years old...

When they were at his age back then, they were still just beginning to learn how to differentiate medicinal ingredients under the guidance of their teachers.

“He really is a guy who makes others feel inferior... Now, I am more and

more curious as to which grandmaster actually managed to teach such an outstanding student?” Frank bitterly laughed.

“Ah, this young boy’s talent for refining medicine may be outstanding but an outstanding unpolished gem will not become something great without meticulous cutting and polishing... That mysterious teacher of his must be very great. At the very least, if Xiao Yan was to be taught by both of us, he would not be able to achieve this effect.” Ao Tuo acknowledged his inferiority.

“But that Purple Flame of his, it is indeed not a ‘Heavenly Flame’. Although it is much stronger compared to a normal flame, it is not that potent or exotic...” Frank said doubtfully as he frowned and recalled the way Xiao Yan refined medicine from earlier.

“Haha. Indeed, it doesn’t seem like a ‘Heavenly Flame’ but that doesn’t really matter. There are many strange people and occurrences in the Dou Qi continent. There will always be some mysterious things that are not discovered by others. Although the Purple Flame is strong, it is only slightly stronger than the Dou Qi Flame belonging to Alchemists of a similar tier. It is undoubtedly much weaker when compared to a ‘Heavenly Flame’.” Ao Tuo said with a smile.

“Yes.” Nodding his head, Frank tilted his head, faced the interior of the room and said, “Young boy, once you’ve packed up your things, you can come out.”

Following Frank’s voice, the figure of Xiao Yan slowly walked out of the room. He lightly brushed away some of the medicinal powder that had landed on his ordinary garments before his gaze swept across the faces of everyone in the hall and smiled.

Seeing Xiao Yan looking over, all the alchemists in the hall also returned a friendly smile. Although their identity meant that they held top statuses in Black Rock City and that anyone who saw them during an ordinary day would respectfully greet them, the medicinal refining talent the young man in front of them displayed caused them to be afraid of slighting him. After all, this young man might well become an alchemist grandmaster

greater than Frank or Ao Tuo in the future.

When he saw Xiao Yan coming out, Frank waved his hand toward one of his subordinates. The latter hurriedly walked out of the hall. A moment later, he returned with a jade plate that was carrying an exquisitely made black colored long robe.

“This is the special apparel for a tier two alchemist. Before the material was used to make this long robe, it was first soaked in a medicinal pool that was cultivated by the Alchemist Association. Thus, you should not look down on it. After wearing it, the cloth material that was soaked in the medicinal liquid will come into contact with the air and release a strange scent. This strange scent will help the wearer maintain an alert state at all times. Additionally, under it’s stimulation, the skin of a person will become somewhat sensitive. When this happens, it will help the alchemist to have slightly better control of their flame when refining medicine.” Frank received the jade plate and proudly announced in detail the effect of the long robe, “At the same time, it also possesses immunity to some poisons. Moreover, after being specially made by the Alchemist Association, the defensive ability of this Alchemist’s long robe is even stronger than ordinary armors. If it were not for the the costliness of making it, resulting in the impossibility of making it in bulk, the Empire would have already snatched it and used it to equip its soldiers...”

Hearing the introduction by Frank, Xiao Yan was also a little amazed. He did not expect that this magnificent looking long robe would have so many coveted abilities.

“No wonder so many alchemists join the Alchemist Association. This kind of treatment really attracts people...” Xiao Yan received the long robe and swept his eyes over it. He noticed an alchemist badge was placed near the chest region. On the badge was an ancient looking medicinal cauldron with two mercury like ripples on it that continued to twist slightly, like they were something alive.

Panning his palm over the pitch black robe, Xiao Yan felt a gentle sensation that was like the tender skin of a lady. It was extremely beautiful.

“Tsk tsk... an alchemist is undoubtedly the most prestigious job in the Dou Qi continent. Just this long robe would likely have cost over a hundred thousand gold coins to manufacture.” Xiao Yan flipped the black colored long robe around and looked at it in a very attached manner. After which, he removed his ordinary rough outer garment and pulled it over his body. Instantly, the black robe touched his skin, causing him to feel refreshed and comfortable much like he was dipped in a mist of water. A strange fragrance also stealthily entered his nose and his exhausted mind was suddenly much more active.

After a year of tough training, Xiao Yan’s figure had also gradually grew. Although his face still appeared thin, it had a faint elegant feeling now that he had put on this appropriate black long robe. The last bit of tenderness on his face was also perfectly concealed.

Seeing that Xiao Yan had appeared as though he had completely changed into a new person after putting on the Alchemist long robe, Frank and Ao Tuo smiled and nodded. Clearly, they were quite pleased with Xiao Yan’s current image.

Within the hall, Xue Mei and Lin Fei who were staring at Xiao Yan and noticed the change in him and surprise flashed across their faces. In their examination, they paused longer on Xiao Yan’s smiling face a while longer without anyone noticing.

“Excellent...” After personally experiencing the benefit the Alchemist robe brought, Xiao Yan nodded and let out repeated praises.

Seeing Xiao Yan’s satisfied manner, Frank smiled. The influence that an alchemist could create was really too big. In order to gather those with great ability to this prestigious occupation, the Alchemist Association had really put in a great amount of effort.

“Alright, the examination is already over. Everyone, please disperse.”

Frank faced the hall and waved his hand. After which, he turned to Xiao Yan and said with a smile, “Do you have time? If you do, I would like to chat with you.”

Hearing this, Xiao Yan smiled and nodded his head as he said, “It’s just

as well. Chairman, I have some things that I also need to ask for. I hope you'll be able to help."

"Haha. Xue Mei, Lin Fei, the both of you should follow the others who passed the test to go and take the tier one alchemist badge and long robe. We still have some things to do so we cannot accompany you." After smiling to Xue Mei, Frank exchange a glance with Ao Tuo before the two of them led the way out of the hall.

Watching this obvious inferior treatment, Lin Fei could only helplessly nod her head. With dissatisfaction, she grimaced at Frank's back and muttered, "Bias!"

"Let's go. Stop complaining. He has the qualifications to make teacher biased. If you are dissatisfied, you can immediately go and take the test for a tier two alchemist." Xue Mei said with a smile as she got up and walked toward the exit of the hall.

"Hmph... what's so great?" Lin Fei softly snorted. Her footsteps followed Xue Mei but her voice obviously lacked the confidence. She was barely adequate to take the test for a tier one alchemist. A tier two test... it was not as though she was as full of herself as she appeared.

"Xiao Yan, please take a seat," In a tidy study, Frank told Xiao Yan with a smile.

Randomly taking a seat on a chair, Xiao Yan did not beat around the bush as he said, "Grandmasters, if you have any questions, please ask. If the questions are not too intrusive, I will not hide anything." As he said this, a cunningness flashed across Xiao Yan's eyes; what was or wasn't too intrusive was determined by him.

"Hehe, what a crafty and alert young man." Frank shook his head and laughed. After living for quite a few decades, Frank naturally understood the meaning behind Xiao Yan's words.

"Since you have already registered with the Association, we naturally needed to perform some administrative work. Ah... regarding the part of your teacher in the registration information from earlier... it seems somewhat incorrect. In my memory, there doesn't seem to be an

Alchemist Grandmaster in the Jia Ma Empire called Yao Lao.” Frank asked with a smile as his hand waved at the information that Xiao Yan had registered with earlier.

“I’m sorry but before I left, my teacher had told me not to reveal any information about him. However, he has never registered with the Association.” Xiao Yan spread his hands out as he replied.

Hearing this, Frank and Ao Tuo shook their heads helplessly. It appeared that trying to get information of his teacher from this kid’s mouth appeared nearly impossible.

“Alright , since you are unwilling to say, we will not make things difficult for you. There are indeed some strong people within the Jia Ma Empire who do not like others knowing about them.” Letting out a sigh, Ao Tuo mused for a moment before asking, “The last question. About the purple colored flame that you were controlling... you may also know that that flame of yours isn’t a ‘Heavenly Flame’, is it?”

“Haha, it would be good if it was...” Shaking his head with a smile, Xiao Yan half truthfully said, “That Purple Flame is something that I coincidentally managed to obtain from the Amethyst Winged Lion. Don’t ask me in detail on how I obtained it. When I met it in the Magic Beast Mountain Range, it spit flame at me for no reason. If I did not possess something that protected my life, I might have been incinerated by it on the spot. After the incident, I realized that there was an additional Purple Flame in my body.”

“Amethyst Winged Lion?”

Hearing this, both Frank and Ao Tuo momentarily stilled. They then quickly nodded their head as though they had realized something. “No wonder... it is the Purple Flame from an Amethyst Winged Lion. I was just wondering why it had a faint violent and wild character. You are really fortunate to be able to get a hold of this thing. Back then there were also quite a number of Alchemists who were planning on getting hold of its flame. Sadly, they all failed in the end.”

“Ugh, forget it. Basically, we didn’t get you to reveal any information.”

Frank waved his hand and helplessly said, “Just tell us your problem.”

“H ha.” Xiao Yan opened his mouth and laughed. He then closed his lips tightly and stared intently at the two of them. He said softly, “I need something. I’m not sure if you grandmasters can help me check if any other alchemist possesses it?”

“What thing?”

“Ice Spirit Cold Fountain!”

Chapter 169: Gu Te

“Ice Spirit Cold Fountain?”

Hearing the name that Xiao Yan spat out, Frank and Ao Tuo clearly stilled for a moment. An instant later, they said in a surprised voice, “Little boy, the Ice Spirit Cold Fountain is an extremely rare and precious Spiritual ingredient. With your current ability, it seems like you should not need this kind of thing.”

With a smile, Xiao Yan vaguely said, “I really need this thing. Grandmasters, do you know anyone in the Alchemist Association who possesses it? If you do, I can pay a large sum in exchange for it.”

“A large sum? Xiao Yan, you should know that this ‘Ice Spirit Cold Fountain’ is something extremely rare that cannot be measured with gold coins. Moreover, even if someone had this thing, you would be hard pressed to take something out to exchange for it.” Frank shook his head and said.

“Hehe, of course I know this. Can you grandmasters please help me check? If there is really someone who possesses it, I may be able to take out something that would satisfy him.” Xiao Yan politely said as he smiled and nodded.

Seeing Xiao Yan’s insistence, Frank pressed his old eyebrows together. He then exchanged a glance with Ao Tuo before helplessly nodding his head.

“Please wait for a moment.” Ao Tuo got up and told Xiao Yan before he turned around and walked into the inner part of the study.

“This old man is the deputy chairman of Black Rock City’s Alchemist Association. Although he is often extremely lazy and seldom bothers to do the work at the association, he’s usually the one in charge of things like business deals.” Frank smiled at Xiao Yan as his gaze followed the Ao Tuo’s departing figure.

Xiao Yan nodded his head with a grin and gently rested his hand on the

armrest of the chair. His finger could not help but lightly drum on it. His calm face had a faint trace of urgent expectation.

Slowly lifting his tea cup and taking a sip, Frank casually lifted his eyes and watched Xiao Yan pretending to be calm. He could not help but be curious, “Is that ‘Ice Spirit Cold Fountain’ really so important to him?”

Xiao Yan waited for a long while before Ao Tuo hugged a thick, ancient-looking book and walked out from the inner room. He gently placed it on the table, turned around and shook his head as he faced Xiao Yan. With a helpless voice, he said, “I’m sorry. I’ve searched all the most recent records of the exchanges, but I did not find anyone with the ‘Ice Spirit Cold Fountain’.”

“This thing is really very rare and the requirements needed to preserve it are extremely strict. I remember that there was once a tier four Alchemist that luckily found some ‘Ice Spirit Cold Fountain’ from an extremely cold place. However, due to the inappropriate preservation method, it turned into a white vapor and disappeared...” Ao Tuo felt a little pity as he spoke.

Hearing this, Xiao Yan sighed again, his face filled with disappointment. After lightly shaking his head, he lifted it and smiled bitterly, “If there really isn’t any, then forget it. I have troubled the two of you.”

Upon noticing the disappointed expression on Xiao Yan’s face, Frank helplessly waved his hand. He turned around and softly asked Ao Tuo, “There really isn’t any?”

Ao Tuo patted the thick book in his hand and shook his head, “There really isn’t any.”

“If it isn’t here, I suggest that you go to the auction house to take a look. If you are lucky, you might coincidentally find it.” Frank said in an attempt to comfort Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan bitterly smiled and nodded. In his heart, he was very certain that if it was something the Alchemist Association did not have, he would be hard pressed to find such a rare treasure at the auction house.

“Ugh, since there isn’t anything that I need, I will be taking my leave.”

Standing up in a disappointed manner, Xiao Yan cupped his hands together and gestured at the two before turning around and walking out of the study.

Seeing Xiao Yan's disappointed appearance, Ao Tuo helplessly shook his head. He mused for a while before he suddenly called, "Wait!"

"Yes?" Xiao Yan was stilled for a moment before he turned around and watched the Ao Tuo who was deep in thought.

"Do you really need that Ice Spirit Cold Fountain?" Ao Tuo asked with a frown.

"Yes, I really need it." Xiao Yan nodded gravely. Looking at Ao Tuo who was deep in thought, his heart pounded slightly. His voice carried a little joy as he said, "Grandmaster Ao Tuo, do you have the Ice Spirit Cold Fountain?"

Beside Ao Tuo, Frank was also staring in a puzzled manner at the former. Clearly, he was also out of the loop.

"Haha, I really don't have that thing." Ao Tuo smiled and shook his head. When he saw that Xiao Yan was once again disappointed he could not help but laugh, "But I seem to have seen that thing before at the home of some strange man."

"Oh?" Hearing this, Xiao Yan's eyes suddenly brightened. He hurriedly asked, "Who is he? Where is he?"

"Uh... I must remind you first that if you are not prepared to pay an extremely heavy price, it is not likely that you'll get what you need from that guy." Ao Tuo said with a smile.

"Oh... I'll try my best..." Xiao Yan replied hesitantly. Without knowing what kind of conditions might be imposed, he naturally did not dare to appear too confident.

"Old man... you aren't talking about Gu Te, that old man who values treasure like his life, are you?" Frank, who was pressing his eyebrows tightly together, suddenly said with astonishment.

“Yes, it is that weird old man. The last time I went over to his place, I think I heard him mention the Ice Spirit Cold Fountain. But that old man is really too petty; he was not even willing to let me take a look...” Ao Tuo said with a face full of smiles.

“... If he really does have the Ice Spirit Cold Fountain, I don’t think that Xiao Yan would be able to successfully exchange for it from his hands.” Frank helplessly shook his head. The gaze he used to look at Xiao Yan carried some pity.

“Who is this Gu Te?” Feeling a little uneasy after being stared at by Frank with that gaze, Xiao Yan asked in a perturbed voice.

“That guy is also an alchemist. Although he is only tier three, his exuberant collection is sufficient to attract jealousy from any alchemist in the Jia Ma Empire.” Ao Tuo shook his head and clicked his tongue as he praised.

“He isn’t a member of the Alchemist Association?” Xiao Yan asked with surprise.

“No, that guy’s character is far too weird. His talent for refining medicine is quite good, but he prefers to indulge in collecting various rare and strange ingredients, causing him to remain as a tier three alchemist. The extent of his indulgence has somewhat reached a mentally unsound level. Once he discovers that someone has something good, Gu Te will repeatedly pester the owner, resulting in others becoming very frustrated and getting a terrible headache.” Frank bitterly laughed. From his manner, it appeared that he had personally experienced this.

“Hehe. Back then, it was your fault for being so bored and actually taking out the Purple Blood Ganoderma that took you so much effort to obtain, and brag to others about it. Tsk tsk, but that old man Gu Te is really patient. He actually spent an entire year pestering you. Ha ha...” Seeming to have remembered something interesting from the past, Ao Tuo gloated at Frank’s misfortune.

“Ugh.” Frank’s head was filled with gloomy thoughts as he helplessly shook it.

“Uh... your tier is higher than him but he dares to be so insolent?” Looking at the helpless expressions on their faces, Xiao Yan asked in a doubtful manner.

“Our tier is indeed slightly higher than his, but that guy has an incredible brother. In the whole of the Jia Ma Empire, who would dare offend him?” Frank bitterly laughed.

“Brother? Who?” Hearing Frank’s explanation, Xiao Yan felt very curious. Who in the Jia Ma Empire possessed such an ability that even two tier four alchemists did not dare provoke his brother?

“Who else... Pill-King Gu He.” Rolling his eyes, Ao Tuo curled his lips and said, “If he did not have his brother to support him, all the treasures of Gu Te would have been stolen by people countless times over.”

“Ohh... Gu He? No wonder.” After being stilled momentarily, Xiao Yan nodded his head as realisation struck him. In the Jia Ma Empire, Pill-King Gu He did indeed possess such an enormous ability.

“Luckily, although that old man may be very irritating, his character isn’t bad. It is only that he is extremely stubborn and he hates people who mention Gu He in front of him the most. Although he knows that the reason he is able to survive till now is related to Gu He’s help, if someone mentions Gu He in front of him, he will immediately chase that person away. Thus, you must be very careful not to infuriate him. Otherwise, even if you take out an extremely rare and unique ingredient, you would have a difficult time exchanging it for the ‘Ice Spirit Cold Fountain’.” Frank warned.

“Is he in Black Rock City?” Xiao Yan anxiously asked.

“Ah, yes.” Nodding his head and smiling, Ao Tuo glanced at Xiao Yan and asked, “You really intend to visit him?”

“No choice. I really need the Ice Spirit Cold Fountain. Even if he is going to ask for an exorbitant price, if it is something that I can take out, I’m afraid I will have to be cheated by him.” Xiao Yan helplessly nodded his head and smiled bitterly.

“What a pitiful fellow. Other people want to avoid him like the plague but you are going to his front door.” After patting Xiao Yan’s shoulder with sympathy, Ao Tuo turned his head, faced Frank and said, “Then I will bring Xiao Yan to visit that old man. I doubt you’re very willing to see him.”

“Go. Just go. When you see him, please pass along a message: It would be best that he does not come to our Alchemist Association. I don’t want the branch under my charge to lose every single person because of his habits. If that happens, I will find fault with him, even if he is protected by Gu He...” Waving his hand, Frank mumbled. Obviously, he was still a little afraid of that irritating guy.

“Hehe.” Ao Tuo smiled in a gloating manner before he said, “Let’s go. Follow me, I will lead you to that guy. However, whether you can succeed or not depends on you.”

Hearing this, Xiao Yan hurriedly nodded. He rejoiced in his heart. Luckily, he had conveniently come to take the test for an alchemist. Otherwise, he may have ended up searching all over the place for the Ice Spirit Cold Fountain. Who knows how long that would have taken?

After Ao Tuo left the Alchemist Association, there were many people who respectfully greeted the indifferent looking Grandmaster Ao Tuo along the way. When their gazes reached Xiao Yan who was following closely behind, they slightly stilled. Their gazes swept across the black robe that represented a tier two alchemist, before finally becoming a little shocked as they landed on the young face of Xiao Yan. Clearly, their hearts were stunned when they saw such a young, tier two alchemist.

Ignoring the shocked gazes along the way, Xiao Yan followed Ao Tuo as they took over ten turns on the confusing streets of Black Rock City. Eventually, they arrived at one isolated corner in the southern part of the City where a strange looking building stood.

Ao Tuo raised his head to face the strange building in front of him before sighing. He turned his head around and said to Xiao Yan, “This is the place where Gu Te lives. Before we enter, I will remind you again:

You'd better be prepared to pay an exorbitant price."

Hearing this, Xiao Yan could only smile bitterly and nod his head.

Chapter 170: Exchange

Ao Tuo beckoned Xiao Yan toward him, he took two steps forward and pushed open the door to the house. However, before he entered, a vicious force sent black colored powder spewing out from all directions from within the house.

The sudden unforeseen event caused Xiao Yan to be slightly shocked. He cautiously took a few steps back with his right hand quickly holding on to the Heavy Xuan Ruler as he arched his body.

Before the black colored powder could spew out from within the room, Ao Tuo rubbed his lips together and waved his sleeve fiercely. An even more vicious force appeared and lifted all the black powder, returning it all back from where it came from.

As the black powder gradually scattered, it revealed a dirty and messy room behind it. Ao Tuo patted his hand, tilted his head and said cautiously to Xiao Yan, "This old man likes to do things like this to trick people. The black colored powder just now may not poison people, but if one's skin were to even come into the slightest contact with it, they would get a terrible itch."

Gradually releasing his palm from the Ruler's hilt, Xiao Yan bitterly smiled and shook his head. This old man was indeed abnormal.

"Let's go. Follow me. Don't touch anything." With a smile, Ao Tuo lead the way into the room with Xiao Yan closely following after a brief hesitation.

After they entered the dark room, the door automatically slammed shut. The clear sound caused Xiao Yan to once again shake his head helplessly. His gaze swept across the room which was like a garbage dump as he followed Ao Tuo and climbed a few rotten wooden stairs that shook in a manner that suggested they were about to collapse. Finally, they arrived at the highest story after experiencing another few weird attacks.

When they completed the climb, Xiao Yan let out a light breath. He raised his head and looked a wooden door at the end of the corridor.

Tilting his head to Ao Tuo, he asked, "It should be here, shouldn't it?"

Ao Tuo nodded his head. He then lowered it to observe his clothes. A few small holes had been formed from the corrosive liquid from the staircase. Twitching the corner of his mouth, he clenched his teeth together and said, "This old bastard. Instead of learning to refine proper medicine, he just likes to play with these things that are not fit to be seen by others..."

Hearing the complaint, the corner of Xiao Yan's mouth parted and laughed stuffily in his heart.

"What nonsense about refining proper medicine, in what way are these things of mine not proper? You old rascal, don't think that just because you are the vice-chairman of the Alchemist Association, I will not dare to chase you out!" While Xiao Yan was laughing stuffily, an old voice suddenly scolded from within the room at the end of the corridor.

"You are the old rascal." Rolling his eyes, Ao Tuo resentfully waved his sleeves and led Xiao Yan into the corridor. Finally, they reached a spot outside the room. He then violently kicked the room's door which seemed to be made of wood.

"Clang!"

When the kick made contact with the room's door, a clear metal sound suddenly sounded from the door. Xiao Yan's eyes twitched when he heard this and quickly turned his head to watch Ao Tuo's distorted old face. Tactfully, he quickly took a few steps back.

"Ha ha, old man. After the last time you kicked down one of my doors, I replaced it with a steel one. Haha. Is it fun?" From within the room, an old exploding laughter once again sounded in a gloating manner.

"Old bastard..." Ao Tuo's face was distorted as he inhaled a mouthful of cold air. The expression on his face slowly turned livid. From his body, an extremely fierce Dou Qi began to slowly rise and began to wrap around Ao Tuo like he was a person made of flames.

"What a strong Dou Qi... his strength is at least at the Dou Ling level."

Seeing the writhing dark yellow Dou Qi on Ao Tuo's body, Xiao Yan hurriedly took two steps back as he sighed in his heart.

With his body covered with Dou Qi, Ao Tuo once again violently kicked at the steel door.

"Bang!" Following a deep muffled noise that sounded in the corridor, the door was sent flying into the room.

"Ah! Old bastard, you really did it!" Once the door flew into the room, a strange yell immediately came from the interior.

"Hmph." Snorting with a vivid expression, Ao Tuo walked into the room with his legs lacking some coordination. His gaze swept the room, finally landing on an old man dressed in drab. He coldly smiled. "Gu Te, do you believe that I will put all the names of the things you hide here onto slips of paper and announce all of them to the outside world."

"Hehe, don't don't... I was just joking." Hearing the threat, the old man in the gray drabs hurriedly waved his hand and smiled apologetically.

"Hmph." Waving his sleeves, Ao Tuo turned around and faced outside the door. "Come in, Xiao Yan."

"Huh, you brought someone along? What are you planning to do?" Seeing Ao Tuo's manner, Gu Te's eyes widened as he said with a face filled with caution.

Rubbing his lips, Ao Tuo was too lazy to bother about this crazy person.

Slowly walking into the room, Xiao Yan's gaze habitually swept across the interior. When his sight glanced across a crystal counter in the room, an expression of amazement swiftly surfaced on his face.

"Fire Heart Seven Leaf Flower? Blood Crystal Grass? Blue Heart Rock?..."

Seeing that all of these seldom seen, rare and precious things were actually all aggregated here, Xiao Yan's mouth could not help but slowly widen. The collection here was a little too rich, wasn't it?

"Hey, hey... boy, what are you looking at? Are you having any thoughts on my treasures?" Seeing Xiao Yan's expression, Gu Te hurriedly jumped

over and stared at Xiao Yan angrily with a fierce expression.

“Uh...” Giving an embarrassed smile, Xiao Yan withdrew his gaze and his eyes stared at the old man in drab. It was difficult for him to imagine in his heart that this thin and weak looking old man would actually be the elder brother of Jia Ma Empire’s well known Pill-King Gu He.

“Cough, sorry. Grandmaster Gu Te, I have never seen so many strange and precious things in all my life. Looking at this lavish collection, I think that there is no one in the Jia Ma Empire that can be compared to you.” Xiao Yan said with a smile.

“...Boy, you do know how to talk. However, what you said is quite true.” Hearing these faintly sucking up words of Xiao Yan, the fierce expression on Gu Te’s old face became a little gentler. He nodded his head and bluntly acknowledged those words.

“What are you here for. Hurry up and say, I’m very busy.” Turning around and sitting at a table that was piled up with broken things, Gu Te raised his legs as he asked.

“This kid has come here to find you for something.” Ao Tuo rolled his eyes and glanced at the chair by the side which was filled with dust. He could only helplessly shake his head and remain standing as he spoke.

“Oh? It’s not like I know him. Why is he looking for me? Don’t tell me that he has some strange treasure that he wishes to sell to me. Hehe, good good. As long as you can satisfy me, I will give you a satisfactory price!” A glint appeared in Gu Te’s eyes as he said with a smile while staring intently at the storage ring on Xiao Yan’s finger.

“Cough... no, Grandmaster Gu Te, I’m not here to sell my treasure, I’m here to inquire about...” Xiao Yan shook his head as his eyes locked onto Gu Te’s face. He softly asked, “I want to inquire if you are keeping some ‘Ice Spirit Cold Fountain’ in your hands?”

Hearing this, Gu Te was momentarily stilled. Next, he shook his head like a windmill. “I don’t have it, don’t have it. You have found the wrong person. I don’t have that thing.”

Seeing that Gu Te was acting childishly, Xiao Yan could only smile bitterly and shook his head. When he mentioned the 'Ice Spirit Cold Fountain' earlier, he had clearly noticed a surprised look flash across Gu Te's face. Perhaps, Gu Te was surprised about how Xiao Yan obtained the news that he had the 'Ice Spirit Cold Fountain'.

"Old man, stop lying. Didn't you tell me about it the last time? You managed to get for a small bottle of 'Ice Spirit Cold Fountain' from someone else. I still remember it clearly." Ao Tuo said with a smile.

"Get lost. You old bastard. You better not come and find me here in the future." Having his lie exposed, Gu Te was instantly angry from being humiliated as he scolded.

Ao Tuo waved his hand and said to Xiao Yan, "I have already brought you to see him. How you get him to hand you the 'Ice Spirit Cold Fountain' is entirely up to you. I'll be waiting for you outside." Once he said those words, Ao Tuo headed out of the room. As he was about to exit, he lightly tapped his palm on a part of the wall. Immediately, a wooden door gradually rose from the doorway and covered the interior of the room after he walked out.

Seeing that Ao Tuo had left, Xiao Yan helplessly nodded. He waved his hand and blew away the dust on the chair before sitting opposite Gu Te.

Gu Te's old eyes glanced at the tightly shut door before taking a look at Xiao Yan. He snorted: "Boy, forget it. I will never hand the 'Ice Spirit Cold Fountain' to you."

"Grandmaster Gu Te, I believe there isn't any transaction in this world that cannot be completed. If a transaction is unsuccessful, it simply means that one has not taken out something that the other party is interested in exchanging something for." Xiao Yan said with a smile.

"Oh? Since you know this, then why are you still here? Don't tell me that you need the 'Ice Spirit Cold Fountain' to save lives or whatever. I don't possess those pointless feelings of sympathy." Raising his dark black eyebrows, Gu Te glanced at Xiao Yan. His smile had a teasing feel. It appeared that he did not think that Xiao Yan could take out something

that he would be interested in.

Xiao Yan's palm slowly rubbed his chin as his mouth was closed tightly; he looked like he was considering what kind of thing could move Gu Te in front of him.

"Hehe, boy do you really possess something? But I will say this upfront. Don't take out Qi Methods or Dou Techniques. Although they are very precious, I'm not interested in them. What I like the most... are rare ingredients." Seeing Xiao Yan's manner, Gu Te was also a little interested. His finger pointed at the many rare ingredients in the room laughing as he spoke.

Xiao Yan's finger lightly tapped on the table. He was silent for a long while before his finger gently rubbed the storage ring. After flicking his finger, a small jade bottle appeared in his palm.

Seeing the emerald jade bottle in Xiao Yan's hand, Gu Te raised his eyebrows. A faint curiosity surfaced in his eyes.

Xiao Yan rubbed the small bottle, unwilling to part with it. He then slowly opened the cap of the bottle and gently placed it on the table. Immediately, a purple vapor rose from within. At that moment, the temperature of the small room also seemed to rise significantly.

Gu Te's eyes slightly shrank as he felt the surrounding air becoming hotter and stared at the threads of purple flame vapor in the room.

Chapter 171: Successfully Obtaining the Ice Spirit Cold Fountain

With his turbid old eyes were intently locked onto the small jade bottle on the table, a long while later, Gu Te licked his lips, carefully extended his hand and grabbed the jade bottle into his hand. He put it under his nose and took a gentle sniff of the dense purple vapor. Instantly, he felt the fire type Dou Qi in his body, which was originally circulating at a tortoise like speed, become much more active.

“Tsk tsk. An excellent thing.” Feeling the change in his body, an expression of surprise appeared on Gu Te’s old face. He sighed in amazement as he smacked his lips. Musing for a while, he suddenly turned his body around and began searching through the garbage pile beside him. Finally, he took out a small crystal dish and a narrow hollow needle.

He placed the narrow needle into the jade bottle and gently pinched it, sucking up and filling the hollow needle with the purple colored liquid. After which, he carefully dropped it in the middle of the crystal dish.

As the purple colored liquid was dropped onto the crystal dish, Xiao Yan and Gu Te could faintly see a purple colored flame dancing within that drop of the purple colored liquid.

“This thing...” Pressing his eyebrows together, Gu Te thought deeply for a moment. He then suddenly turned around and took out a very thick book from behind the cover of a rock slab. After which, he flipped it open and quickly looked through it, appearing like he was looking for something.

Seeing Gu Te action, Xiao Yan could not help but feel a little puzzled in his heart. Could this old man with unkempt appearance really be able to recognise the ‘Amethyst Lion Birth Essence’?

Sweeping his gaze onto the small jade bottle on the table, Xiao Yan’s face twitched a little painfully. If the ‘Ice Spirit Cold Fountain’ was not so

important to him, he would definitely be unwilling to take out his 'Amethyst Lion Birth Essence' to exchange for it. This thing was the best aid when training fire type Qi Methods. When training with it, one could save a lot of time needed for tough training!

Back then in the Magic Beast Mountain Rage, Xiao Yan had managed to obtain six bottles of 'Amethyst Lion Birth Essence'. After consuming it drop by drop during his training, he had consumed slightly less than half a bottle. Thus, Xiao Yan only had slightly more than five bottles of 'Amethyst Lion Birth Essence' remaining. However, he had to take one out now in order to obtain the 'Ice Spirit Cold Fountain'.

Each of these five bottles of 'Amethyst Lion Birth Essence' could be considered to be priceless treasures. If one were to compare the value based on rarity and uniqueness, it would not lose to the 'Ice Spirit Cold Fountain'. After all, obtaining the 'Amethyst Lion Birth Essence' was not easier than entering any dangerous place. Just that Dou Huang level Amethyst Winged Lion would mean that many would not have the strength to carry out their desire.

"Found it, found it!" Gu Te, who was repeatedly flipping through the book suddenly shouted while Xiao Yan was feeling the pain in his heart.

Curiously shifting his gaze onto a page of the ancient looking book, Xiao Yan could vaguely observe that the page it was open to had a drawing of a huge animal with a body entirely covered in Amethyst with its mouth opened. This huge beast was the Amethyst Winged Lion.

"'Amethyst Lion Birth Essence', birthed from the Amethyst Winged Lion and is born with a baby beast. The chances of this happening are low and one may rarely appear in a hundred years. For those training fire type Qi Methods, this is a treasure that may not be found even with lots of gold."

"Tsk tsk, boy, I really could not imagine that you actually got a hold of such a unique item like the 'Amethyst Lion Birth Essence'..." After reading out loud the information on the 'Amethyst Lion Birth Essence', Gu Te could not help but exclaim.

"I obtained it by chance." Xiao Yan smiled faintly. He lifted his eyes,

looked at Gu Te whose gaze never left the small bottle and whispered, “So how is it? Grandmaster Gu Te, are you satisfied with the thing that I have taken out?”

Hearing this, Gu Te rotated his eyes and laughed toward the sky. The narrow needle in his hand gently tapped on the crystal dish as he said with a smile “Little boy, I still don’t know your name.”

“Xiao Yan.” Xiao Yan replied with a smile.

“Hehe, Little Brother Xiao Yan, uh... that... since you are searching for the ‘Ice Spirit Cold Fountain’, you should be clear of its rarity, aren’t you?” Gu Te laughed.

“Haha. I naturally know about it. If I don’t, why would I take a unique thing like the ‘Amethyst Lion Birth Essence’ out?” Xiao Yan smiled but he skimmed his mouth while coldly smiling in his heart. Does this old man think he was a child?

“Ugh, I will put it this way. This ‘Amethyst Lion Birth Essence’ of yours can be considered a rare item but you should be clear that this thing is only useful to those who practice fire type Qi Methods. This restricts its value.” Gu Te glanced at Xiao Yan and said.

Xiao Yan smiled faintly but he extended his hand slowly and grabbed the small jade bottle in front of Gu Te. He then carefully capped it and raised his eyes to look at Gu Te who was giving him a dry smile. With a grin, he said, “Grandmaster Gu Te, please don’t treat me like a fool and deceive me. Both of us know what kind of huge effect the ‘Amethyst Lion Birth Essence’ has on those practicing fire type Qi Method. In order to obtain it, many alchemists are willing to lose their entire fortune. Haha, you don’t need to rush to rebuke me. As someone who has collected treasures for decades, you should be clear of its true value!”

“By trying to belittle the ‘Amethyst Lion Birth Essence’ that I have taken out, you are undoubtedly trying to raise the price. But I will also say this first, I only have a bottle of the Amethyst Essence. You can choose to exchange for it or not. Among the things that I am able to take out, it is the most valuable. If you still think that this is insufficient, then I will have

to choose to give up even though I really need the 'Ice Spirit Cold Fountain'..." Xiao Yan shook his head and sighed regretfully.

"Uh..." Looking at how decisive Xiao Yan had become, Gu Te opened his mouth slightly. He did not expect that after playing a bully for an entire life, he had actually met someone of a younger generation who was also not paying any respect in front of him.

The muddy old eyes did not blink as he stared at Xiao Yan's smiling face. A long while later, Gu Te shook his head and also helplessly said, "Since it's like this, I must regretfully inform you that this exchange may have to fail."

Hearing this, Xiao Yan's face did not change. He waved his hand while smiling and shook his head regretfully. With a flip of his hand, he stored the jade bottle into his storage ring. After which, he stood up, patted his backside and said to Gu Te with a smile, "I'm sorry to disturb you grandmaster. This is my last day staying in Black Rock City. Tomorrow, I may leave the Jia Ma Empire. Hopefully, we will have the chance to do business together in the future."

After saying those words, Xiao Yan turned around and acted in a natural and unrestrained manner as he strided out of the room.

Upon hearing that Xiao Yan was about to leave the Jia Ma Empire, Gu Te's palm on his long legs obviously trembled. However, he did not immediately open his mouth. His pair of eyes stared intently on Xiao Yan's back as his lips shivered.

The room was totally quiet. Only the muffled sound of Xiao Yan heavy footsteps could be heard.

With his back facing Gu Te, Xiao Yan watched the room's door becoming increasingly near. Cold sweat had also appeared on the smile that he had maintained on his face. He really needed the 'Ice Spirit Cold Fountain'. However, if he backed down in this situation, that cunning wolf-like Gu Te would definitely not give up the opportunity to make him pay heavily for it. When that time comes, his limited five bottles of 'Amethyst Lion Birth Essence' may have to shrink once again. This result

was undoubtedly an extremely painful one for Xiao Yan.

Thus, in order to limit the condition for the exchange, he could only show such resolution.

“Dammit, isn’t this old man’s mental strength too strong? Don’t tell me that he isn’t attracted to the ‘Amethyst Lion Birth Essence’?” Xiao Yan could not help but scold anxiously in his heart. The room door was already in close proximity but everything behind him was still quiet.

“Four steps, three steps, two steps...”

His heart quietly counted the number of steps he had to the door. When he reached his final step, Xiao Yan slowly sighed. His palm trembled slightly as he touched the door handle.

Xiao Yan was quiet for a moment as he held the door handle. After that, he clenched his teeth violently, steeled his heart and opened the door, preparing to leave. However, at this moment, an old voice that took the weight off Xiao Yan’s heart appeared from behind him.

“Ugh, boy. Come back. You win... In all my life, I have not seen the ‘Amethyst Lion Birth Essence’. So, you are very lucky. If it was something else, you would really have left empty handed today.”

The old voice was like angry thunder, smashing the weight that had tightly pressed on Xiao Yan’s heart. While Xiao Yan was letting out a relaxed sigh, he was stunned to realize that his back had become drenched in a cold sweat unknowingly. If it were not for the good workmanship of the Alchemist robe, it was likely that Gu Te behind him would have discovered something fishy.

Without anyone noticing, Xiao Yan wiped off the cold sweat on his face before slowly turning around. Using a more relaxed gait, Xiao Yan once again returned to the table under Gu Te’s helpless gaze and sat down.

After taking a few ragged breath while seated, Xiao Yan lifted his head and smiled at Gu Te. His body weakly took out a small jade bottle from his storage ring and gently placed it on the table. He said with a smile, “Grandmaster Gu Te, thank you for your consent.”

“Ugh...” Helplessly shaking his head, Gu Te grabbed the small jade bottle. With a face filled with infatuation, he held it in his palm and took a deep breath of its scent. His entire face became intoxicated. “Back then, I heard some bastard tell me about this ‘Amethyst Lion Birth Essence’ but I had never seen it with my own eyes. I can be considered to be lucky today.”

Seeing Gu Te’s infatuated manner, Xiao Yan felt a little chilled. This old man did not have any interest in anything but he had an abnormal love for these unique items. His love was like that of a tyrannical and lustful king toward beautiful women.

“Cough, Grandmaster Gu Te... can you please take out the ‘Ice Spirit Cold Fountain’ for me to see.” Xiao Yan let out a gentle cough as he helplessly reminded.

Having his intoxicating feeling broken, Gu Te impatiently glanced at Xiao Yan and snorted, “Wait for me here. Don’t touch anything.” After seeing Xiao Yan nod his head, he took the Amethyst Essence, turned around and randomly knocked on a wall for a period of time. Following a muffled sound, a small hole appeared behind the wall.

“Sit there and don’t move!” Once again, Gu Te fiercely ordered again before bending his body and entering the hole.

Seated on the chair, Xiao Yan did not make any additional movements. With Yao Lao’s Spiritual Perception, that old man would not be able to try any tricks.

After waiting quietly for some time, Gu Te carried something in his hand and exited the hole.

He completely blocked the hole before turning around as he placed a white jade box that was the size of a washbasin on the table.

The white jade box was very well sealed. Other than the hole to open it at the top, there was not the slightest gap.

Although it was covered by a layer of white jade, Xiao Yan could still feel an iciness that was faintly seeping out from it.

Tapping the jade box in a manner that suggested he was unwilling to part with it, Gu Te carefully undid the tight seal of the cover. As the cover was removed, a cold fog immediately rose and shrouded the place. In an instant, the temperature within the room fell.

Ignoring the falling temperature, Xiao Yan's gaze hurriedly shifted to the interior of the jade box. He found that a thick layer of ice was neatly formed within the jade box. In the middle of the ice, there was a small jade bottle that was normally used to store makeup.

The surroundings of the jade bottle was shrouded by cold air that appeared to be able to freeze people's hearts...

Watching the cold air seep out of the small jade bottle, Gu Te sighed. He pushed it toward Xiao Yan and said in a faint voice, "Take it. This is the 'Ice Spirit Cold Fountain' that you wanted..."

Chapter 172: The Alchemist Grand Meeting

Staring intently at the white jade box in front of him, excitement surfaced on Xiao Yan's face. His hand trembled slightly as he reached forward, intending to hold that small jade bottle in his hand.

Looking at Xiao Yan's action, a mocking glint flashed across the muddy eyes of Gu Te who was seated opposite him.

Just as Xiao Yan touched the small jade bottle, his heart abruptly tightened. He found that the spot on his hand that came into contact with felt a coldness that pierced his bone. In the blink of an eye, his palm was covered with a layer of thin ice. In addition, the ice swiftly spread up Xiao Yan's arm.

The unexpected change caused Xiao Yan's expression to change slightly. An idea struck him and threads of purple colored Dou Qi in his body quickly passed through a few Qi Paths and finally flowed to his arm. Instantly, a faint purple colored flame rose from Xiao Yan's arm and came to a brief stalemate with the icy air before gradually melting it.

His arm shook slightly and threw off the water stains on it. Xiao Yan's hand was covered in a pale purple colored flame as he once again grabbed the small jade bottle. This time round, he lifted it up without any change in his expression.

Beside him, Gu Te watched the Purple Flame that burnt and soared on Xiao Yan's hand. A surprised expression flashed across his face as he cried out involuntarily, "Heavenly Flame? No..." After feeling the strength of the Purple Flame, Gu Te shook his head slightly. He looked intently at the young man in front of him and softly said in his heart, "What a guy. I was actually mistaken. This guy is not someone simple."

Ignoring Gu Te's gaze, Xiao Yan focused on carefully studying the small jade bottle in his hand that was continuously releasing icy cold air. He carefully opened the bottle cap and revealed half a bottle of cream white

liquid. On top of the liquid, one could faintly see some ice-like things. Xiao Yan gently inhaled a breath of cold air from the bottle. Instantly, his body violently shivered. The Purple Flame Dou Qi in his body circulated for a moment before it forced the thread of icy air out from his head.

Xiao Yan extended his hand and touched the top of his head. He was stunned to find that a thin layer of ice crystals had formed on it. He immediately smacked his lips together. This 'Ice Spirit Cold Fountain' was indeed a rare unique treasure. No wonder one must have its help when swallowing a 'Heavenly Flame'. From the trend of his thoughts, Xiao Yan could also vaguely feel just how frightening the strength of a 'Heavenly Flame' was... it actually required a few different types of unique things to work together in order to raise the success rate by a little...

Xiao Yan cautiously studied the 'Ice Spirit Cold Fountain' for a long while. Only when Yao Lao confirmed it in his heart did Xiao Yan hurriedly place it back into the white jade box.

"You have already obtained what you want. Leave if you having nothing else..." Painfully watching the 'Ice Spirit Cold Fountain' being stored by Xiao Yan in his storage ring, Gu Te's face twitched as he waved his hand in an attempt to chase him out.

Having obtained what he needed most, Xiao Yan sighed with relief in his heart. He cupped his hands together and shook it at Gu Te. With a smile, he said, "Grandmaster, thank you for your help. If I have any opportunity in the future, I will definitely come here to exchange with you."

"Hmm hmm. Come find me when you are able to take out some ingredients. Otherwise, the old me will not see anyone." Smacking his mouth, Gu Te rudely said.

"Of course. If I am not able to take something out, I will not dare to come and disturb you." Xiao Yan smiled and nodded before glancing all around the room. He randomly asked, "Grandmaster Gu Te. Do you happen to have a rank three monster core with you? If you have..."

"Rank three monster core?" Rolling his eyes, Gu Te purposefully said with disdain, "Do you think that I would keep something of that grade?"

“...” Seeing the unhappy Gu Te, Xiao Yan was speechless.

“Boy, you need a monster core? I don’t have a rank three one but I have one rank five monster core in my collection. Do you want it? Hehe, all you need is to take out another bottle, no, half a bottle of the ‘Amethyst Lion Birth Essence’ and I will exchange it with you!” Gu Te rubbed his hands together. His face suddenly became less hostile and the smile of his was like a cunning wolf.

“Haha... Grandmaster Gu Te really likes to joke. That bottle of Amethyst Essence is really all that I have. I won’t be able to take out any more of it.” Xiao Yan smiled dryly and shook his head. Although a rank five monster core was valuable, that was something that could be obtained if one had the strength. However, the ‘Amethyst Lion Birth Essence’ was a rare item that relied on one’s luck and could not be easily obtained. Moreover, even if Xiao Yan obtained a rank five monster core, he had no use for it and would only attract envy if he kept it with him.

“Since Grandmaster Gu Te doesn’t have a rank three monster core, then I will stop by at the auction house. Heh, goodbye.” Smiling at Gu Te, Xiao Yan gradually turned his body, opened the door and walked out under Gu Te’s unhappy gaze.

“Little Bastard, I don’t believe you...” Gu Te sat down on the chair and was at a slight loss as he frowned, “Xiao Yan? I seem to have heard this name somewhere. Where...”

In the middle of the room, the old man in drab scratched his hair as he thought deeply.

—

The sound of footsteps caused Ao Tuo to turn around as he saw Xiao Yan, whose face was full of smiles. He could not help but ask in a stunned voice, “Have you gotten it?”

“Heh. Yes.”

Nodding his head with a smile, Xiao Yan cupped his hands together and expressed his thanks, “If it were not for Grandmaster Ao Tuo’s help today,

I'm afraid that I would really have to run all around the world in search of this 'Ice Spirit Cold Fountain'."

"It wasn't much. These things will only be decorations if placed with that old man. With his ability, he would be unable to use them. By giving them the chance to end up in the hands of someone who needs them, it can be considered that I have done a good deed." Ao Tuo smiled and shook his head. His gaze swept across the young man in front of him and could not help but be amazed in his heart. After having known Gu Te for so many years, he naturally knew that the old man would not give in without some incentive. Originally, he did not hold much hope when he led Xiao Yan over. After all, what kind of rare and unique items can an alchemist who had just reached tier two take out?

However, the smiling young man in front of him had personally informed him that the item had been secured. This was something that made Ao Tuo very curious. He was curious as to what kind of thing would be able to move that stingy monster.

Although the curiosity was a little intense, Ao Tuo did not ask the question. He was not a novice who had just left his home. After muddling along for so many years, he naturally knew some of the rules of an exchange. Hence, even if his heart was as curious as a cat's paw, he wisely chose to avoid this question.

Since Ao Tuo did not ask, Xiao Yan naturally would not reply. In this way, both of them understood each other as they chatted with smiles while they walked out of this messy and strange building.

"You still need a rank three monster core?" After leaving the room, Ao Tuo heard the information that Xiao Yan unintentionally revealed. He tilted his head and posed the question.

"Yes." Xiao Yan smiled and nodded before saying softly, "I will be leaving Black Rock City today and head to the Empire's eastern border. Thus I need to prepare everything I will need, here."

"Head to the border of the empire?" Hearing this, Ao Tuo momentarily stilled. He quickly smiled and nodded as he voiced his thoughts, "Why

don't we do this. You will first accompany me to the Alchemist Association to wait. As for that rank three monster core, I will send someone to help you obtain one from the steward of the auction house. This way, you can save the time you would have needed to go to the auction house."

Hearing these words, Xiao Yan felt a desire to accept it. He did not pretend otherwise as he nodded with a smile. "Then I'll trouble Grandmaster Ao Tuo."

"Heh, since you have registered at our Black Rock City's Alchemist Association, you can be considered one of us. This little bit of trouble is nothing..." Ao Tuo shook his head and carelessly replied.

Ao Tuo's words clearly had faint signs of trying to butter up to Xiao Yan. Regarding this, Xiao Yan only hesitated a little before nodding his head. In the Jia Ma Empire, the Alchemist Association was undoubtedly a huge organization that would not lose to the Misty Cloud Sect. Becoming one with them would not be detrimental to him in any way. Moreover, if he needed to refine medicine in the future, he would need some rare and strange things. When that time comes, the exchange system of the Alchemist Association was extremely accessible. Thus, Xiao Yan was not too resistant to this matter.

Of course, the main reason for Xiao Yan to agree without too much hesitation was that there was not too many restrictions in the Alchemist Association. During ordinary days, everyone worked on their own things and did not bother one another. On occasion when the Alchemist Association needed help, they may distribute invitations to get some alchemist to help. The help given was naturally not free. Once it was properly completed, the Association would give a good amount of compensation.

Soon after the two of them returned to the Alchemist Association, Ao Tuo gave the order for someone to help Xiao Yan purchase a rank three monster core before inviting Xiao Yan into the living room to wait there quietly.

In the spacious living room, Ao Tuo carried a cup of tea and placed it in front of Xiao Yan. He thought quietly for a while before suddenly asking, “Xiao Yan, how long are you planning to spend in your trip to the empire’s border?”

“Maybe around half a year.”

“Half a year...” Tapping his finger gently on the table, Ao Tuo smiled and said, “Half a year later, will you go to the capital of Jia Ma Empire?”

“Capital?” Hearing this, Xiao Yan momentarily stilled. He pressed his lips tightly together and nodded. In his heart, he coldly said, “Of course I will go. The Misty Cloud Sect is just outside the capital. How can I not go?”

“Heh.” Hearing Xiao Yan’s words, the smile on Ao Tuo’s face became a little more obvious. The gaze he gave Xiao Yan was also gentler.

“Grandmaster Ao Tuo... is something the matter?” Seeing Ao Tuo’s manner, Xiao Yet felt unnatural as he asked.

“There is indeed something.”

Nodding his head with a smile, Ao Tuo gently said, “Half a year later, the upcoming Alchemist Grand Meeting will occur in the capital. I think that if you have the spare time then, you can take part in it. It would be very beneficial to you.”

“The Alchemist Grand Meeting?” Hearing this, Xiao Yan’s face was clearly at a loss.

“During the Alchemist Grand Meeting, not only will there be many alchemists from the Jia Ma Empire participating, there will also be some alchemists from other empires in the Dou Qi continent who will come and join. This is a great event in the Jia Ma Empire Alchemist scene. It would be a pity to miss it.”

“Oh?”

“If you wish to join when that time comes, you can come to the capital’s Alchemist Association Headquarters to find Frank or me. By then, we will

all be there.” Seeing some interest from Xiao Yan’s face, Ao Tuo said with a smile.

“Haha, alright. If I’m free then, I will definitely go and take a look.” Xiao Yan smiled and nodded; it could be considered that he accepted Ao Tuo’s invitation.

Seeing that Xiao Yan had nodded his head in agreement, Ao Tuo smiled and nodded too. Then he told Xiao Yan some important things regarding the Alchemist Grand Meeting that the latter needed to take note.

During the time the two of them were talking, the person who had went to the auction house to purchase the rank three Monster Core had also rushed back. He respectfully handed it to Xiao Yan.

The value of a rank three Monster Core would not be lower than two hundred thousand. However, this money was rejected by a smiling Ao Tuo. With the wealth from the Alchemist Association, spending this bit of money was really like a drop in the ocean.

When faced with this rank three Monster Core that he obtained for free, Xiao Yan could only helplessly accept it. The two of them chatted for a while longer before Xiao Yan finally got up and bid his farewell. Today, he would leave Black Rock City.

With a smile, Ao Tuo saw Xiao Yan out of the Alchemist Association. He watched Xiao Yan’s back as it slowly disappeared to nothing before he smiled and whispered, “Xiao Yan, I will be waiting at the Alchemist Grand Meeting for you. I hope you can display your talent at that scene...”

Chapter 173: During the Flight

After walking out from the Alchemist Association, Xiao Yan glanced around before striding toward the middle of the city where the Flying Transportation Company was located.

After passing a few unfamiliar streets and asking for directions along the way, Xiao Yan finally found the Flying Transportation Company situated in the middle of a wide open space after ten minutes.

There were over ten large bird monsters parked in the vast plaza. This kind of bird monster was known as the Thick Winged Bird. They did not belong to the Magic Beast classification and were instead just birds. They had very gentle tempers and were easily trained by humans. However, due to their small numbers, it would usually require the strength of an empire in order to create this kind of Flying Transportation Fleet.

This kind of Thick Winged Bird may not be comparable to a Flying type Magic Beast in terms of speed, they still had extremely great endurance. As long as one of them had a full meal, it could fly at a steady speed for up to four or five days. Its ability to carry a load was also outstanding. A fully grown Thick Winged Bird could easily carry loads up to five or six times its weight and still fly for a long period of time.

These Thick Winged Birds would be forcefully taken back by the empire's military during times of war. It would only be returned to the public when the war was over. Thus, among the creatures, there were many who had experienced battle. As Xiao Yan entered the plaza, the cries released were filled with power as they forcefully poured into his ear, causing Xiao Yan's ears to ring when he could not react in time.

Xiao Yan shook his head violently before lifting it and looked around the crowded plaza. Beside each Thick Winged Bird, there was a long queue. On the wooden stairs beside the Thick Winged Bird, Xiao Yan could even see a person in uniform collecting the boarding tickets.

After being stunned for awhile upon seeing this sight, Xiao Yan laughed bitterly and shook his head. He stopped a passerby and inquired about

where he could purchase the tickets before heading for the south-eastern part of the plaza where the Ticket Counter was.

Currently, there was a very long queue in front of the Ticket Counter and Xiao Yan could only helplessly queue quietly as he waited for his turn.

During his wait, the noisiness by his ear never ceased. Xiao Yan rubbed his temple as he was suddenly envious of the Fairy Doctor. Now he finally knew that owning a flying steed was far too important. With just a bamboo whistle, the vast Dou Qi continent was hers to roam...

"Dammit, I will get a flying pet in the future..." Clenching his teeth, Xiao Yan viciously said in his heart.

"Mister, where do you wish to travel to?" While Xiao Yan was thinking by himself, a lady's voice sounded from his front.

"Uh."

Xiao Yan's mind had momentarily blanked. He lifted his head and realized that the queue had already cleared in front of him. Behind the counter, there was a gorgeous lady in a uniform who was using her occupational smile as she asked him. However, Xiao Yan could see that there seemed to be an impatientness behind the smile.

"The eastern border of the empire. The city closest to Tager Desert." Xiao Yan glanced at the fairly beautiful lady in front of him as he said blandly.

Hearing this, the lady skimmed her lips together and muttered softly to herself. After which, she pulled out a ticket that was made of the special fur of a Magic Beast. However, when she was about to hand the ticket over to Xiao Yan, her impatient gaze that was roaming around suddenly paused on the Alchemist badge in front of Xiao Yan's chest. Instantly, her extended hand suddenly stiffened. With a careful voice and smile, she inquired, "Sir, are you an alchemist?"

"Yes... is there a problem?" Xiao Yan frowned as he asked.

"Not at all, not at all. It is just that according to the empire's regulations, an Alchemist can enjoy the service of the Flying Transportation Company

for free. Therefore, please follow me. We have a flying steed that is specially prepared for alchemists.” Seeing Xiao Yan nod his head, the lady hurriedly shook her head and respectfully said with a smile.

Hearing this, Xiao Yan once again stilled. A moment later, he could not help but sigh emotionally. The identity as an alchemist was really grand to the point where one would be astounded. Even when it came to these small things, the empire had given orders to benefit alchemists. No wonder many people would adopt a respectful face when they saw an alchemist. The rarity and nobility of this occupation far outstripped Xiao Yan’s previous expectations.

Under the envious and respectful gazes that surrounded him, Xiao Yan gently patted the Heavy Xuan Ruler on his back before following the lady who had exited the counter.

On the way, the slightly beautiful lady who was walking in front of him had intentionally or unintentionally repeatedly shook her full and narrow waist, forming a sexy and fiery curve. Although her face was not superb, it was still sufficient to prompt some heat in a person’s lower abdomen when combined with her tight uniform dress.

Walking behind, Xiao Yan faintly took a glance before withdrawing it. He was not ruled by his spunk, so he was not interested in getting involved with this lady who was acting in a slightly debauched manner.

After walking through a walkway, an extremely huge Bird Beast that was as large as a Thick Winged Bird appeared in Xiao Yan’s sight.

Sweeping his gaze at this somewhat fierce looking huge Bird Beast, Xiao Yan was a little shocked to realize that this was actually a flying Magic Beast.

From its aura, the beast appeared to have been at rank one but Xiao Yan could feel a flowing wind type energy surrounding its body. Clearly, this was a wind type flying Magic Beast; the flying speed of this kind of Magic Beast was extremely fast.

On the back of the flying Magic Beast, there was a small house that was firmly built on it using a special wood. This type of wood was extremely

agile yet firm. There was, however, very little of it available.

The interior of the house was further divided into a few small rooms. Xiao Yan glanced at the house and found that two of the rooms were already occupied. From the robes on their bodies, they were obviously all alchemists.

“Sir, this is the Flying Beast that will head to the eastern border city, Desert City, of the Jia Ma Empire. That city is the closest to the Tager Desert.” Stopping in front of the flying Magic Beast, that lady in uniform respectfully said.

“Yes.” Nodding his head slightly, Xiao Yan gently stepped on the ground, prompting his body to drift up onto the spacious back of the huge bird. Under the resentful gaze from behind him, he entered one of the empty rooms.

Taking this kind of Flying Beast for the first time, Xiao Yan naturally did not know that as a grand Alchemist, he was qualified to enjoy high standard personal service. As for what it meant by personal service, any man would understand... The reason for the action of the lady along the way was because she hoped Xiao Yan would choose her to be the female servant accompanying him during the journey. Unfortunately, Xiao Yan was not interested in such things, so her ‘affection’ was naturally ignored.

Not long after Xiao Yan boarded the Flying Beast, another alchemist also boarded it. After waiting for a little longer, Xiao Yan finally felt the huge Flying Beast slowly flapped its wings. Threads of wind type energy also began to shroud the underside of the beast and lifted its huge body into the sky.

Following a sharp cry, the Flying Beast, under the control of a Beast Trainer, suddenly shot to the sky and began swiftly flying toward the eastern regions of the Jia Ma Empire.

Seated by the window in the room, Xiao Yan watched the faint fog of clouds fly past him. From the deep recess of his memory, a somewhat distant word of ‘airplane’ suddenly appeared in his mind. He smiled bitterly and shook his head, throwing the thought out of his mind. Xiao

Yan sat cross-legged on the chair and gradually entered training mode.

There was quite a distance from Black Rock City to the edge of the empire's body. Even with the speed of this flying Magic Beast, it would at least require three days of flight before they could reach the border. Thus, Xiao Yan was unwilling to waste so much time.

The bright sky slowly became dark when Xiao Yan, who was training, was suddenly woken by numerous strange sounds.

Slowly opening his eyes, Xiao Yan saw that the Moonlight Rock within his room was already beginning to release a faint light, expelling the darkness of the night from the room.

Xiao Yan gently released a feculent air from his mouth and helplessly watched the room to his left. From within it, the panting sound of a man and the seductive groan of a woman was unceasingly pouring into his mind like a devil's sound.

"Damnit..." Xiao Yan softly scolded. He suddenly understood why the lady today had repeatedly swayed in front of him. There was actually such a service.

Shaking his head helplessly, Xiao Yan did not dare continue training in such a situation. He let out a sigh and took out the 'Blood Lotus Essence', 'Ice Spirit Blazing Grass' and the rank three Monster Core from his storage ring. He carefully and gently placed them on the table before tapping the pitch-black ring. Instantly, Yao Lao unsteadily floated out from it.

"Why? Do you want to refine the 'Blood Lotus Pill' now?" Yao Lao said with a smile as he glanced at the three types of ingredients on the table.

"Yes, let's prepare it earlier. After all, didn't Teacher say back then that if my luck was good, I may suddenly find a 'Heavenly Flame' at any time." Xiao Yan nodded his head while smiling. Hearing this, Yao Lao also smiled but he did not refuse. He floated to the front of the table and nodded his head. With a smile, he said, "It's just as well. This 'Blood Lotus Pill' is a high tier medicinal pill that can be considered to have entered tier five. The time needed to refine it would be around two days. Since we are free

now, let's make the most of this time.”

“Tier five medicinal pill?” Hearing this, Xiao Yan was slightly shocked. He did not expect that this ‘Blood Lotus Pill’ had actually reached this tier. Tier five medicine. In the entirety of the Jia Ma Empire, it was likely that only Pill-King Gu He could refine it.

“Observe it carefully. Seeing how a high tier medicinal pill is being refined will be of much benefit to you.” After reminding Xiao Yan, Yao Lao slowly extended his hand. Instantly, a thick white flame curled upwards from his palm.

Seeing that cluster of thick white flame, Xiao Yan could not help but lick his lips. This one of the ‘Heavenly Flame’s that he had spent days and nights coveting.

Yao Lao stared blankly at the thick white flame on his hand. He waited for it to gradually rise before releasing a mouthful of air. After which, he threw the ranked three monster core into it. The refining process of the ‘Blood Lotus Pill’ officially began high up in the sky!

Chapter 174: The Murder Caused by the Tier Five Medicinal Pill

Xiao Yan spent the three day flying journey on the flying bird in his own room. Although there were two stops during the journey to rest, he did not step out. Instead, he continued to remain in his room, meticulously absorbing all the steps Yao Lao took when refining the medicinal pill into his mind.

This time around, Yao Lao took two and a half days in order to refine the medicine. This result was only achieved under the precondition of Yao Lao having the help of a 'Heavenly Flame'. From this, it can be seen that if an ordinary Alchemist intended to successfully refine this 'Blood Lotus Pill', it would be impossible without a time period of over ten days.

After observing the entire process of Yao Lao refining the tier five medicinal pill, Xiao Yan felt that he had gained quite a lot. At the same time, he had also realized that his ability to control the flames and other alchemy related things that he was proud of were nothing in front of a true Alchemist Grandmaster. Take for example the process of refining a 'Blood Lotus Pill'. Although there were only three ingredients, the complex process involved caused Xiao Yan to suck his tongue in shock. Xiao Yan had thought about it in his heart. If it was him, he might have turned the medicinal ingredient into a pile of ashes when refining the first ingredient.

From within the small room, the clouds outside flew past with great speed.

After two long days of being calcined by the 'Heavenly Flame'. a blood red colored round medicinal pill the size of a dragon's eye was rolling around as it rotated quickly a couple of inches above Yao Lao's palm. From the luster of its surface, it had clearly reached the final stage of congregating and solidifying into a pill.

Licking his lips, Xiao Yan massaged his numb legs. His gaze randomly drifted out of the window and felt that the air had suddenly become much warmer.

“Are we arriving?” Xiao Yan rubbed his black panda eyes as he mumbled to himself. He rubbed his neck before shifting his gaze once more toward Yao Lao who was on the table. Although he had spent two days without any rest, Yao Lao’s expression still remained as calm as before. It was as though this long time of squandering his energy did not wear him down.

“The medicinal pill is about to be formed...” Just as Xiao Yan was admiring in his heart, Yao Lao suddenly said in a faint voice.

Hearing this, Xiao Yan hurriedly took out a high grade rouge jade bottle. After which, he carefully placed it on the table and took a few steps back.

Glancing at the jade bottle on the table, Yao Lao nodded his head. His palm trembled slightly and a dense thick white flame rose, completely surrounding the blood colored medicinal pill.

The thick white flame hurriedly writhed a couple of times as an ferocious energy fluctuation suddenly undulated from within the flame. An instant later, it scattered out from the small house like a ripple.

When this energy ripple spread, the flying type Magic Beast which was in the midst of flying was shocked by it. Instantly, its huge body trembled and shook a few times as it’s terrified eagle cry sounded in midair.

Feeling this sudden energy ripple and the change in the flying type magic beast, Xiao Yan’s face changed slightly. At the same time, the blood colored medical pill that was being formed abruptly released an extremely dense medicinal scent. The medicinal scent also carried a faint red color as it exited the room and finally shrouded the small house.

“This is the phenomenon that will occur when a medicinal pill tier four and above is formed. Guard the door. Give me a few minutes to quietly complete the pill.” Yao Lao gravely said as he stared at the flame in his palm without changing expression: “Be careful of the alchemists traveling with us.”

“Yes.”

Xiao Yan nodded his head seriously. At the moment when the strange scent was emitted, he had already discovered that there was some

commotion in the few other rooms on this huge bird beast. A medicinal pill that was tier four and above possessed a fatal attraction to many people. Some were even willing to risk their lives in order to obtain it.

With his palm tightly holding the Heavy Xuan Ruler on his back, Xiao Yan turned around and opened the door. He then went out with an expressionless face. At the same time, he violently pulled the door closed with one hand.

Not long after he stood at the door, four human figures from the four other rooms rushed out without being properly dressed. Their gazes swept across the corridor and finally landed on Xiao Yan who was wearing an indifferent looking face.

The four gazes first swept across the tier two alchemist badge on Xiao Yan's chest before shock flashed in their eyes. They exchanged glances hidden with meaning.

As the four men were weighing Xiao Yan, Xiao Yan also roughly glanced at all four of them. Among the four, there was an old man and three middle aged men who were in their thirties. On the chest of the old man was a tier three alchemist badge. Two others were tier two alchemists, the same tier as Xiao Yan. The last one was a tier one alchemist.

"Ke ke, young friend, I am Ha Lang." The old man stared at the threads of pink scent that were flowing out of the room behind Xiao Yan. His eyes narrowed and greed surfaced. After he coughed twice, he slowly approached Xiao Yan and said in a friendly voice.

Glancing at this old man called Ha Lang with an emotionless gaze, Xiao Yan did not reply but the palm holding onto the Heavy Xuan Ruler tightened further.

"Ke ke, young friend. Did the energy ripple that has suddenly appeared just now originate from here? We don't have any other intention. All we want to do is inquire. Ke ke, after all, all of us are a thousand meters in the sky. If anything were to happen, all of us would be killed." Ignoring Xiao Yan's cold attitude, the old man continued to smile as he said.

"That's right. Little brother, all of us can be said to be on the same boat.

Please do not create something a little dangerous. Otherwise, hehe... it does not benefit all of us here.” A tier two alchemist also gave a superficial smile as he came over. His gaze obscurely swept over the small room as his Adam’s apple noticeably trembled a little.

Seeing that these two had said such words, the other two middle aged men also moved forward, unwilling to be left out. Their collective voices echoed each other. As they repeated what had been said, they even made a suggestion of entering the room to conduct a check.

“My teacher is inside refining a medicinal pill. All of you are sensible people so there is no need to pretend to be foolish in front of me. We will not affect the flight of the flying bird. Please give me some face and return to your rooms. Don’t randomly disturb. Otherwise...” Xiao Yan said in a thick voice as he glanced at the four in front of him who clearly had ill intentions.

“Ke ke, young friend really knows how to joke. We do not have such intention. As you know, all of us cannot afford the consequences if something were to happen a thousand meters up in the air. Moreover, since you and your teacher have chosen to take the flying bird beast, it is natural that you have not achieved the stage where your Dou Qi can transform into wings. If anything were to happen....” That old man called Ha Lang said with a face full of smiles. His smile might have been calm but it could not hide his greed and ruthlessness.

Although he clearly understood that the mysterious alchemist in there would not be a lower tier than him, the other party was obviously in the process of refining medicine. During this time, diverting one’s attention was taboo. If one was not at his best, ruining the medicinal pill was a small and easy matter. In the case of a backlash, it might result in the refiner becoming a cripple. This was the reason why Ha Lang had such courage...

“Little brother, we only want to go in and confirm for ourselves. We will not create any trouble. Please move aside.” The tier two middle-aged man also knew that now was the best opportunity so he did not dare to drag the matter. He took a step forward, hid his Dou Qi in his palm and pushed at

Xiao Yan.

“Get lost!”

Seeing this person's bold action, Xiao Yan's expression became cold. His palm sudden tightened and a purple colored flame instantly soared. Carrying a fierce force, his hand punched at the middle aged man before the latter could defend.

“Bang!” A muffled noise sounded. Xiao Yan hurriedly stepped back until he tightly glued himself on the room's door before he steadied his body. Xiao Yan's current strength was merely an ordinary Dou Shi while the large man had long entered the level of a three star Dou Shi. Although Xiao Yan managed to gain the upper hand by relying on his Purple Flame Dou Qi, obtaining a victory was not easy.

“Ah...” After receiving Xiao Yan's attack, that tier two alchemist also took a few quick steps back. However, he suddenly grabbed his fist and let out a painful cry. The other three glanced over and were surprised to discover that the person's fist had actually become totally red. There was also the faint sign of blood seeping out. It was extremely terrifying.

“‘Heavenly Flame’? No. This brat's a little strange. Attack! Ta Gu! The medicinal pill inside is about to be completely refined!” Seeing the ascending Purple Flame on Xiao Yan's fist, that old man's expression changed. He then turned around and ordered the other tier two alchemist. From the looks of it, the old man seemed to be acquainted with that tier two alchemist.

Hearing the old man's shout, that middle aged man whose strength was clearly greater than the tier two alchemist earlier nodded his head. He took a step forward and threw a flying kick at Xiao Yan with his right leg. On his feet, there was a dense dark yellow colored Dou Qi and the accompanying oppressing sound of the wind. Xiao Yan's face became grave.

“Dammit!” Scolding angrily in his heart, Xiao Yan suddenly drew the Heavy Xuan Ruler from his back. He rotated his palm and stored it into the storage ring. At the same time, his feet violently stepped on the ground

as he bent his body. Finally, he abruptly shot toward the middle aged man.

“Octane Blast!”

Xiao Yan suddenly shouted coldly in his heart. His right fist tightened and was thrown heavily forward. The frightening strength actually created numerous sound waves.

“Bang!”

The fist and foot heavily knocked against one another. Under Xiao Yan’s full attack strength, the middle aged man, who was not looking down on Xiao Yan despite his low level, was ruthlessly sent flying by the frightening force contained in Xiao Yan’s fist.

“Bang!”

The middle aged man violently smashed into one of the rooms. Immediately, sawdust was scattered and the small room wrecked. At the back of the room the blue sky and pale clouds outside were revealed.

Seeing the ashen face of the middle aged man who had stopped at the corner of the back of the flying bird, a ghastly glint flashed across Xiao Yan’s eyes. He was about to launch another swift attack to throw that guy off the back of the bird when a triumphant, cold, laughter sounded from behind him, causing his heart to be alarmed.

He abruptly turned his head around and found that chilly faced old man had already appeared in front of the door. The latter tilted his head and grinned at Xiao Yan gloatingly as he said in a ghastly manner, “Brat. Once I finish off the one inside, I will throw you down!”

After he said those words, the old man threw a punch at the wooden door. Instantly, fragments of wood shot out in all directions while the room’s door burst under the old man’s laughter.

The old man’s face was filled with smiles as he carelessly pushed aside some of the wood fragments that shot at him. He had just stepped into the room when a specter like shadow strangely appeared in his front like a ghost. A very old arm extended out like lightning and grabbed the old man’s neck.

“You wish to finish me off?”

A faint voice sounded by the side of the old man's ear, causing the eyes of the old man who was at a loss to suddenly shrink.

Chapter 175: Arrival

Hearing the old voice sounding from within the room, Xiao Yan let out a sigh of relief.

The old man who had just rushed into the room slowly retreated out. At the moment, one could see a somewhat old looking palm on his neck. Like an eagle claw, it was tightly locked onto his throat.

Ha Lang's expression was somewhat aghast as he stared at the indifferent old man in front of him. Part of the reason for him being caught was because he was unprepared. However, when the palm of the man locked onto his throat, Ha Lang came to a terrifying realization that the originally quick flowing Dou Qi in his body appeared to have been bound and had changed to a flow with a tortoise like speed. Regardless of how much effort he put in order to hasten it, the Dou Qi remained mild, without any strength.

At this point in time, regardless of how stupid Ha Lang was, he was also able to understand that the old man in front of him was not someone who was only slightly stronger than him as he had thought...

From the terrifying hand of the other party, this strength at the very least exceed Ha Lang by over two classes.

"God, this old man's strength has obviously reached the stage where his Dou Qi can transform into Wings. Why did he still take this kind of flying beast whose speed was much slower?" Ha Lang sadly wailed in his heart. With great difficulty, he tried to move his throat and said with a hoarse voice "Sir... we did not mean to offend you. It is just that we wish to ensure our safety..."

Yao Lao glanced at him indifferently. His right hand waved and a rouge jade bottle appeared in his hand. From within that translucent bottle, one could see a blood red medicinal pill the size of a dragon eye rolling around.

"You want it, right?" Waving the jade bottle in his hand, Yao Lao smiled and said blandly.

Looking at Ha Lang who was easily subdued by Yao Lao without any ability to retaliate, the other three middle aged men's expressions were filled with fear. They took a few terrified steps back and their hearts began to feel uneasy. After greed had slowly retreated from their minds, they finally realized just how foolish their actions were.

"Ke... ke ke, sir, you must be joking. We would not dare take things from you. Had we not been afraid that the energy ripple from before would impede our flight, we would definitely not bother you." Ha Lang laughed dryly as his eyes rotated and he swallowed his saliva.

"This was not what you said just now..." Xiao Yan came to the side of the room's door and leaned against the wooden wall. He thickly glanced at He Lang as he mocked.

"Ke ke... before, before I was just joking." He Lang laughed dryly. He lowered his head slightly and a pernicious glint flashed in his eyes. He lowered his sleeves a little and a small bag of black colored powder rolled from his sleeves into his palm.

"Originally, I did not wish to kill. But since you seek death, then I'll forget about it..." Just as the powder in He Lang's hand was about to be scattered, Yao Lao sighed and shook his head. The corner of his mouth curled up in a cold smile. A thick white flame suddenly appeared on the palm that was grabbing He Lang's neck.

"Ah!"

Just as the dense white flame touched He Lang's skin, a terrible pain caused him to suddenly widen his eyes. His body tightened like it was a spring. Following a blood curling shrill, his entire body was completely swallowed up by the thick white flame in a matter of seconds.

"Hiss..."

Seeing that He Lang was turned into a pile of black ashes in the blink of an eye, everyone present, including Xiao Yan could not help but inhale a breath of cold air.

"Is this the strength of a 'Heavenly Flame'?"

Feeling a little shock as he watched the scene, Xiao Yan's heart was in a terrible turmoil. Yao Lao had used the 'Heavenly Flame' to kill a person back in Wu Tan Cit, but the strength of Liu Xi at that time was only that of a Dou Zhe. Thus, Xiao Yan could not feel its extreme profoundness. However, the one in front of him who had withstood the 'Heavenly Flame' for a few seconds was a true Da Dou Shi!

“'Heavenly Flame'... no wonder so many people were willing to risk their lives to obtain it. This kind of strength... tsk tsk, it is indeed attractive.” Xiao Yan sighed and shook his head. He had to admit that after experiencing the strength of a 'Heavenly Flame', his hope to obtain it grew far denser.

After glancing at the ashes on the ground, Yao Lao waved his sleeve. A gentle wind blew passed and scraped the floor clean. He threw the jade bottle to Xiao Yan before gently patting his hands.

Xiao Yan carefully received that jade bottle which contained the 'Blood Lotus Pill' and stored it into his storage ring. He sighed in relief and lifted his head. Glancing at the three pale-faced middle-aged men with ill intentions, he smiled and asked, “Teacher, how do we deal with them?”

“Since they have the determination to rob medicine and kill people, it is only natural that they know what kind of price they have to pay should they fail.” Yao Lao blandly said. He lifted his eyes and glanced at the three of them. Flipping his hand, a thick white flame once again rose. “Do you want to jump down yourself?”

Hearing Yao Lao's indifferent words, the three men stilled their bodies. Their faces were filled with fear as they lowered their hands and glance at the ground which was over a thousand meters away. Their heels did not stop shivering.

Xiao Yan folded his arms and coldly watched the three men who had descended into terror and hopelessness. His heart did not hold any pity. He knew that if their roles were reversed, these people would definitely not show any mercy and kill the both of them. Since the other side did not intend to show any mercy, Xiao Yan could also temporarily silence these

feelings of his and face them.

Without raising his head to see the fearful expressions of the three of them, Yao Lao's finger slowly flicked. Numerous threads of pale white flame continued to rise from his palm and scattered...

The depressing atmosphere continued for a moment. That middle-aged man who was only a tier one alchemist finally could not withstand the pressure of this atmosphere. Following an oppressive roar, his Dou Qi covered his body. Then he revealed his fierceness as he charged at Xiao Yan, intending to kill. It appeared that he had not completely lost his reasoning as he still knew how to choose the softer target to strike.

After this middle-aged man retaliated by attacking, one of the other tier two alchemists also suddenly took out a longsword from his storage ring. After which, he let out a cry that was filled with strength as he too charged at Xiao Yan ferociously. In his heart he knew that as long as he could catch Xiao Yan alive and take him as a hostage, he would be able to keep his life today.

Ignoring the two men who were pouncing forth, Yao Lao was momentarily quiet before he flicked his finger. A thread of white colored flame shot from his palm and like an arrow, shot through that tier one alchemist body in a lightning like manner. Instantly, it incinerated the latter into ashes.

After killing a tier one alchemist like killing a chicken, Yao Lao's finger once again flicked at that tier two alchemist who was pouncing forward. However, a soft muffled sound caused his finger to suddenly pause. His old eyebrow twitched as he raised his head with interest.

"Puff..."

At the moment, the body of the tier two alchemist who was rushing toward Xiao Yan suddenly froze on the spot. He violently vomited a mouthful of bright red fresh blood. Slowly lowering his head, he saw a cold blade that was contaminated by the glaring fresh blood had penetrated his chest.

"You..." Turning around with difficulty, that tier two alchemist stared

intently at his companion who had suddenly attacked him. He cursed in a hoarse voice, "You... will also die here. Definitely... cannot escape. He will not let you off."

Hearing this, that tier two alchemist whose expression was a little mad, once again thrust the longsword in his hand deeper. After which, he suddenly pulled it out. Fresh blood spluttered out and covered his entire body.

Seeing his companion whose body was gradually falling, the tier two alchemist fiercely took in a deep breath. He suddenly turned around and shouted to Yao Lao, "Sir, I am willing to follow you! All I ask is for you to let me live!"

Xiao Yan quietly watched the somewhat brutal scene of killing of one's companion that occurred in front of him. A long while later, he let out a gentle breath.

"This is the extremity of human personality. Should you face a hopeless situation in the future, don't show your back to those that you cannot trust. Because you never know if a sword that you did not expect would stab into your chest..." Ignoring that fawning face of the tier two alchemist who was trying to get into his good books, Yao Lao tilted his head, stared at Xiao Yan and said blandly.

Tightening his fist, Xiao Yan nodded his head. The scene that had played live in front of him had caused him to be a lot more cautious.

"This person, you can do what you want. I don't need this kind of follower." Slowly turning around, Yao Lao walked into the room. All that he left Xiao Yan were vague words.

Nodding his head, Xiao Yan inhaled a breath. A somewhat icy smile surfaced on his face.

A short while after entering the room, Yao Lao heard a deep muffled sound from outside. He nodded his head and flicked his finger. The rising pale white flame on the tip of his finger gradually disappeared.

"Creak."

Xiao Yan pushed open the door and entered. At that moment, his body had a little scent of blood. Seeing Yao Lao looking over, Xiao Yan shrugged his shoulders and smiled. "If I left that kind of person by my side, it would be difficult to say when he would change colors. So, I kicked him down."

"Ah." Randomly nodding his head, Yao Lao's sight passed through the window and observed the distant land where it was covered with a gold yellow color. He smiled and said, "We are reaching the Tager Desert. Let's go... we will fly ourselves for the remaining distance. Otherwise, there might be some unnecessary disturbance due to the four missing alchemists when this flying bird descends, delaying our arrival."

After saying those words, Yao Lao's body swayed, transforming into a cluster of light and poured into the ring on Xiao Yan's finger. At the same time, the Purple Cloud Wings that were tightly stuck to Xiao Yan's back also extended out with a 'swish' sound.

Slightly flapping the Purple Cloud Wings on his back. Xiao Yan opened the window and leapt down.

An intense sound of wind swept past his ears as Xiao Yan's pair of wings flapped and a purple colored Dou Qi gradually covered his body. Lifting his head, he watched the Flying Bird Magic Beast that was flapping its huge feathered wings a short distance away. He smiled faintly. After being stationary for a moment, his flying speed suddenly increased as he transformed into a purple colored light and speedily overtook that Flying Bird Magic Beast...

In the distant sky, a purple colored stream of light instantly slid across the horizon as though it was chasing the stars and the moon. He faced the yellow soiled city that stood in the golden yellow desert and flew quickly towards it.

The rigid city grew increasingly near. Numerous whiffs of heat waves came toward him. He narrowed his eyes and stared at the golden yellow region where the borders could not be seen. Xiao Yan let out a gentle sigh, "The final training place, Tager Desert. I've finally arrived!"

Chapter 176: The Mysterious Map Fragment?

Upon reaching a place around a few hundred meters from the city, Xiao Yan's flying speed gradually decreased. His body trembled slightly and the Purple Cloud Wings on his back released waves of pale purple colored light before gradually shrinking. After which, they transformed into a tattoo and stuck to Xiao Yan's back.

Xiao Yan rolled his body in midair before his feet steadily landed on the ground. After gently patting off some of the dust from his clothes, he lifted his head and looked at the huge yellow colored city that was in the distance. He let out a relieved sigh as he smiled.

Perhaps because the place was located close to the desert, but the air was extremely dry and hot. Blazing sunlight shined down from the sky and grilled the vast ground, causing it to emit hot air that cooked people. That wave of hot air slowly rose, causing some distortions in the surrounding areas.

According to common sense, this could not be considered to be a good environment and there should not be people who could have a carefree feeling in this environment. However, Xiao Yan was a little stunned to discover that ever since his feet stepped on this plot of land, the flowing Purple Flame Dou Qi in his body actually became a lot more joyous.

After being slightly amazed for a moment, Xiao Yan extended his hand and caught some air from the space in front of him. He pursed his lips together. A long while later, he suddenly whispered, "No wonder. Around eighty percent of the air here belongs to the Ground and Fire type Dou Qi energy..."

"Ah. Due to this reason, the Tager Desert is most suited for those practicing Fire and Ground type Qi Methods. Additionally, the Purple Flame in your body belongs to a special flame that has a close relationship to the sun. Naturally, you are a little more sensitive compared to others." Yao Lao's faint laughter emitted from within the ring.

“And this is also the reason for me to ask you to come to this desert to train. The conditions here are very tough. If one wanted to train, there would be no better place.”

Xiao Yan nodded his head and let out a breath of air. He patted the exquisite alchemist long robe that was almost like a piece of art before opening his stride and slowly headed toward Yellow Soil City.

As he gradually walked closer to the city, the number of surrounding pedestrians also increased. Among these pedestrians, the men largely revealed their upper body to show that their skin was dark and strong. When one looked at it, they appeared forthright. As for the occasional women that passed by, their skin was also slightly dark but it was more of a bronze color. The women here were not as shy and reserved as those in the interior of the empire. The tight skin blouse they wore only covered their chest area and some areas a little lower. Their narrow waists were boldly exposed. A short skirt or shorts covered their long and tight thighs. When they walked, their snake like waists shook, showing unique, seductive charm and loveliness.

During his walk, Xiao Yan feasted with his eyes. He smacked his lips together and lifted his head to see the specific size of the yellow colored city. At the area where the city gate was, two huge pale red words were carved onto the city wall. Looking from a distance, it had a faint bloody feeling.

“Desert City...” Xiao Yan read softly as he smiled and slowly walked toward the city’s entrance.

At the city’s entrance, over ten soldiers wearing armor were carrying long spears as they shouted to those people entering the city to pay the entrance tax. Seeing that these soldiers ignored the heat and wore full armor, Xiao Yan felt a little shocked in his heart. Why was the defence here even tighter than that of big cities like the Black Rock City?

Perhaps it was because the weather was very hot but the soldiers who were standing guard at this place had become a little irritated. Numerous rude, loud abuses continued to hasten the pedestrians entering the city.

Walking toward the city's entrance and hearing the loud abuses that escaped the soldier's mouth, Xiao Yan frowned slightly. He shook his head and walked directly into the city. Within the Jia Ma Empire, an alchemist was an occupation that enjoyed a treatment that was almost like royalty. These entrance taxes collected at the city's entrances were also waived by the empire. Although an alchemist would not be bothered about this little bit of money, this status that they were given was something that all the alchemists enjoyed.

"Hey, brat. Didn't you see what's written here..." Seeing Xiao Yan directly walked into the city as though there was no one, a soldier's eyes stared at him for a moment. Before his abuses could be completely said, his gaze drifted to the exquisite alchemist long robe on Xiao Yan's body. Instantly, the scolding from his lips was swallowed. The angry face had also transformed into a fawning smile, "Sir, are you planning to enter the city?"

"Yes." Without pausing his footsteps, Xiao Yan slowly walked towards the soldier. He glanced indifferently at the soldier. After which, his heels trembled a little as his shoulder brushed passed the guard and headed into the interior of the city as he pleased.

"Cluck..." Seeing that Xiao Yan had ignored the offense from earlier, joy surfaced on the soldier's face. He swallowed his saliva and hurriedly turned around and called out respectfully, "Sir, recently there have been some snake people in the Tager Desert who are finding trouble. If you intend to leave the city, you need to be more careful."

Slowing his footsteps, Xiao Yan nodded his head as he obtained this unexpected news. Then his back figure slowly disappeared into the darkness of the city wall's tunnel.

"Dammit, I was almost done for. If my supervisor were to learn that I had offended a tier two alchemist, it would be strange if he didn't serve me to the dogs." Watching Xiao Yan's figure disappear, the soldier finally and completely let out a sigh of relief. He wiped away his cold sweat and once again returned to his station. It might have been because of the scare from earlier, but the current him had reeled in on his temper, not daring to randomly scold those entering the city.

After slowly exiting the somewhat dark city wall's tunnel, Xiao Yan's vision brightened. Buildings that had the desert characteristics appeared in his sight. These numerous strange looking houses and buildings were an eye opener for Xiao Yan.

Walking on the street, Xiao Yan's gaze swept across the people walking on the street. A moment later, a dazed Xiao Yan asked in his heart, "Teacher. Where do we go now? Do we go directly into the Tager Desert?"

"If you randomly bash about in the desert like you intend to, even if you don't get lost in the desert, you would sooner or later die from a lack of water source." Yao Lao's helpless voice was emitted from the ring.

Giving an embarrassed smile, Xiao Yan dryly laughed, "This is my first time encountering a desert... then what should we do next?"

"Go and purchase the most detailed map of the Tager Desert. In this city, there should be shops that specialize in selling maps. This is very important! Additionally, prepare sufficient water. And one more thing. Go to the medicinal shop here and buy some medicine to repel snakes. The Snake People in the Tager Desert are most proficient in ordering poisonous snakes to attack. It is correct to be a little more careful." Yao Lao mused out loud.

"After preparing all these things, we should not have any time left today to enter the Tager Desert. Therefore, we will rest the night in the city. Oh, right, your 'Energy Recovery Pills' have been exhausted. This is something that is essential to prepare for training. Luckily, you have gathered sufficient medicinal ingredients from the small valley in the Magic Beast Mountain Range. Tonight, I will find the time to help you refine a batch. Once we have completed all of these tasks, we will enter the Tager Desert tomorrow morning."

Hearing the numerous instructions from Yao Lao's mouth, Xiao Yan could only helplessly nod his head. He sighed and offhandedly stopped a passerby to inquire about the shops that sold maps of the Tager Desert.

The passerby that Xiao Yan had stopped had an impatient expression initially. However, when he noticed the alchemist badge on Xiao Yan's

chest, he hurriedly withdrew his expression and was extremely polite in pointing the direction of the shop. Even after Xiao Yan voiced his thanks, this person still passionately told him about the approximate prices of the maps.

After saying his thanks to the passerby, Xiao Yan rubbed the alchemist badge on his chest with his palm. He sighed and shook his head. It must be said that this identity was just too convenient to use.

Sighing again in his heart, Xiao Yan swiftly passed through the corner of the street and headed in the direction of the best map shop in the Desert City that the passerby had pointed out.

Walking for a while at a neither fast nor slow pace, the map's shop that was named 'Ancient Map' appeared in Xiao Yan's sight. His gaze swept across this shop and was slightly surprised. This shop was not as magnificent or publicized as the others. Looking at it, there was a faint rustic atmosphere.

With some surprise in his heart, Xiao Yan gradually walked into the shop. The interior of the shop was not very spacious. Two Moonlight Stones were emitting a faint light that lit the entire shop so much that it was quite bright. Xiao Yan's gaze swept across the interior of the shop; there were not many people here buying maps. The desolated manner caused Xiao Yan to suspect if he had come to the right place.

Slowly walking into the shop, Xiao Yan's gaze drifted and finally stopped on an old man behind a counter who had lowered his head and was creating a map. The old man was obviously quite old. Despite his head being filled with white hair, the dry hand that he used to hold the black pen used for drawing the map was still strong.

Without making any noise to disturb the old man, Xiao Yan's gaze swept across the large number of maps on the counter. He curiously lifted it in his hand and flipped it over and over to take a look. The clear routes on the map caused him to nod his head in satisfaction.

After observing the map for awhile, Xiao Yan saw that the old man still had no intention of stopping. He pressed his lips closely together and with

slow footsteps, arrived at a corner of the shop beside an ancient looking wooden shelf.

This shelf was obviously very old and was filled with rotten holes. Some yellowing maps were carelessly piled on top of it. From the looks of the broken traces on the maps' surfaces, it appeared that they were failed products when producing maps.

Xiao Yan's hand randomly flipped through the yellowing maps and a whiff of musty smell came at him. Frowning slightly, Xiao Yan lifted one pile of failed product. His hand trembled slightly and a fragment map piece the size of a palm suddenly fell from this pile of failed product.

Without being too concerned about the fallen fragmented map piece, Xiao Yan flipped through the failed products in his hand. He then boringly placed it back. When he did, his gaze drifted toward that small fragment map piece. He blinked his eyes first... then the hand which was moving suddenly froze.

"This..." Xiao Yan's palm trembled slightly as he carefully picked up the fragmented map piece with two fingers. He could feel that his heart was violently beating. Forcefully swallowing his saliva, he placed the fragmented ancient map piece on his hand. His gaze was filled with uncontrolled joy as he meticulously scanned the somewhat familiar mysterious lines on the map.

A long while later, Xiao Yan slowly squinted. He took in a deep breath and quivered as he mumbled, "It really is that..."

Chapter 177: Mysterious Old Man

Xiao Yan's hand trembled a little as he held the fragmented map piece that appeared as though it would turn to dust with just a touch. There was an unrestrained joy that could not be hidden within his eyes. He did not expect that he would find one of the mysterious fragmented pieces under such coincidental circumstances.

Xiao Yan could not understand the meaning behind the routes as he viewed the mysterious routes on this yellowing map piece. However, the outline of these routes were faintly familiar. This was because he had seen this type of mysterious map piece when he and the Fairy Doctor were searching for treasure in a cave within the Magic Beast Mountain Range...

This fragment of a mysterious map could lead one to find the legendary 'Purifying Demonic Lotus Flame' that was ranked third on the 'Heavenly Flame' ranking. Even Yao Lao also gave a very high evaluation to this kind of 'Heavenly Flame'. When Yao Lao talked about the 'Purifying Demonic Lotus Flame', Xiao Yan did not have difficulty in sensing the amazement in his voice.

By being able to be repeatedly praised by Yao Lao, who once stood at the top of the Dou Qi continent, it could be seen just how strong the 'Purifying Demonic Lotus Flame' was. Using the phrase 'Destroyer of everything' to describe it was no exaggeration.

"Tsk tsk, what a lucky guy. To actually be able to find a map piece randomly in such a place like this. Looks like you and the 'Purifying Demonic Lotus Flame' are fated to meet." Yao Lao said with shock and disbelief evident from Xiao Yan's heart. Clearly, he did not expect that Xiao Yan would be able to find two fragment map pieces within one short year.

Xiao Yan smiled. His smile was a little agitated. Carefully holding the mysterious fragment map piece, he forcefully suppressed the impulse to take out the other map piece in his storage ring to compare. Taking in a deep breath, he calmed the fluctuations in his heart caused by this

extremely unexpected gain.

At this moment, the old man within the shop finally completed the work that had occupied his hand. However, he still did not raise his head. An old voice evenly reverberated throughout the room.

“You are here to buy a map for the Tager Desert, aren’t you.”

Hearing the old man’s question, Xiao Yan turned around and slowly walked to the front of the counter. He smiled and nodded as he asked with a polite voice, “Old sir, can you give me the most accurate and detailed map of the desert?”

“The maps are on the counter. Pick them yourself.” The old man didn’t have any intention of standing up or introducing himself. He answered without any interest, making him seem not like a businessman.

Seeing the unique attitude of the old man, Xiao Yan was a little stunned. However, he currently needed the old man’s help so he could only nod his head helplessly. He carelessly choose a piece of map that seemed quite detailed from the counter. After which, he carefully pulled open the old map piece in his hand and questioned softly, “Old sir, I wonder if you have anymore such map pieces here?”

Hearing Xiao Yan’s question, the hand of the old man who was originally focused on creating a map paused unnoticeably. The meticulously created line appeared slightly crooked. The old man frowned and then lifted his head. After sweeping his gaze over Xiao Yan’s hand, an inexplicable feeling flashed in his muddy eyes.

Seeing the old face which was lifted, Xiao Yan could not help but still slightly. From the left cheek to the corner of his eye was a frightening scar. Although the gaze of the old man was calm, this scar added a little fierceness to him.

“You... have you seen these kinds of fragment map piece in the past?” The old man’s gaze swept across the badge representing his identity as an alchemist on Xiao Yan’s chest. His old voice carried some astonishment.

Hearing this, Xiao Yan narrowed his eyes. He smiled, shook his head and

said, "I think that I have seen this kind of fragment map piece once at an auction house. That time, I randomly bid for it but eventually gave up due to the high price the other party offered. Today, I suddenly found this map piece fragment in this place. This is somewhat similar to what I saw so I want to inquire about it."

The 'Purifying Demonic Lotus Flame' was not an ordinary thing. This kind of 'Heavenly Flame' that was ranked third in the 'Heavenly Flame' ranking would cause even a hermit who held himself aloof from the world to become greedy. Thus, Xiao Yan would not be foolish enough to say that he had one of the fragment map pieces.

"Oh."

Sweeping his gaze on Xiao Yan's face, the old man appeared to have believed Xiao Yan's words. He said faintly, "There isn't any other. This was something that I found by coincidence. With all my years of experience making maps, this appears to be a fragment of a map."

"Can old sir tell me where you got ahold of it?" Xiao Yan frowned as he continued to ask.

"I dug it out from the desert." The old man's calm voice did not have the slightest ripple.

When faced with this irresponsible answer, Xiao Yan could only bitterly smile. He held the fragment map piece and asked, "Old sir, can you sell this map piece to me? I'm willing to pay a high price."

"I'm not selling." The old man lowered his head slowly as he once again returned his attention to the unfinished map. His tone might have been dull but it had an irrevocable solemnity to it.

Seeing that he was rejected immediately, Xiao Yan stilled for a moment. His eyes gradually narrowed. No matter what happened, he had to get the fragment. Even if the other party wasn't an old man who appeared physically weak, and was a really strong person, he still would think of ways to obtain it. After all, the attraction of the 'Purifying Demonic Lotus Flame' to Xiao Yan was far too great. If he wanted to evolve the 'Flame Mantra' Qi Method to the Tian Rank, this 'Purifying Demonic Lotus

Flame' which was ranked third on the 'Heavenly Flame' ranking would play an important role.

Just as thoughts were being rolled around in Xiao Yan's heart, Yao Lao's faint voice suddenly sounded, "Be careful. This old man is not an ordinary person."

Hearing this, Xiao Yan heart suddenly turned cold as he hurriedly said in his heart: "Teacher, is there something strange with this old man?"

"Yes, from my observation, this old man's true strength should be at the Dou Huang level. However, he seemed to have some strange energies suppressing his power. His body's current strength is merely around that of a Dou Ling. But even if it is like this, it would be easy for him to kill you." Yao Lao said with some interest.

"Dou Huang?" Xiao Yan's heart trembled as he cried out involuntarily in his heart, "How can it be? Among the ten strongest in the Jia Ma Empire, there are only three Dou Huangs. Where did this person with a Dou Huang's strength come from?"

"How would I know... but the strong people whom you mentioned are all those on the surface. The Jia Ma Empire can be considered a big empire; there would definitely be quite a number of strong people who do not like revealing themselves. Some of these strong people have strange personalities and running to this desert border to sell maps isn't an extremely strange habit." Yao Lao randomly said.

"..." Xiao Yan was speechless. A long while later, he smiled bitterly, "Why does it have to be someone like him?"

"Maybe you are lucky." Yao Lao gloated laughingly.

"Kid, stop having any intention on the map. I am not interested in money. Take your things and leave and you shouldn't have any intention of forcefully stealing it. That won't do you any good." The old man waved his hand and blandly said. He did not appear to be afraid that Xiao Yan would take the map piece and run.

Gradually letting out a sigh, Xiao Yan shook his head and said, "Indeed,

in front of someone who was once a Dou Huang, I really cannot forcefully take it.”

“Crack!” The ink pen in the old man’s hand that was slowly moving suddenly stilled and was broken following a clear sound.

The gaze of the old man stared intently at the large black ink patch that was dripping on the map. A long while later, he raised his head. He watched Xiao Yan with turbid eyes; a faint coldness gradually hovered in them.

“Who exactly are you?”

The old man’s palm gently tapped at a spot on the table and the large open door suddenly banged shut. His sharp gaze stared at Xiao Yan as an icy strong force began to spread from his body.

Just as the icy oppression headed toward Xiao Yan, Yao Lao’s Spiritual Perception surrounded Xiao Yan, allowing him to eliminate the oppressive force from the other party.

“Old sir, please do not misunderstand. I do not know you. It is just that my innate Spiritual Perception is a little odd. It is very sensitive and can feel the surrounding energies. Just now, I had incidentally sensed the majestic energy in old sir’s body, thus...” Seeing the intense reaction of the old man, Xiao Yan waved his hand, took two steps back and said with a smile “Old sir, I have no other intention. It’s just that I really wanted to obtain that fragment map piece. It is very important to me. Can you please accomodate me. Naturally, you can ask for the things you want in exchange. As long as I can take it out, I will not reject you.”

“Boy, I did not expect you to be so special.” Seeing that Xiao Yan was unaffected under his imposing force, the old man could not help but speak in a surprised voice.

“Haha.” Xiao Yan laughed. Naturally, he was not foolish enough to reveal Yao Lao. He merely nodded without agreeing or disagreeing. He smiled as he waved the fragment map piece in his hand, he said, “Old sir, what do you think?”

“I have already told you, I will not sell it to anyone. If you really intend to forcefully steal it, don’t blame the old me for bullying the weak.” After saying in a bland voice, a gush of white wind began to activate behind the old man’s back. An icy Dou Qi surrounded his body.

Being directly rejected by the old man, Xiao Yan pressed his eyebrows together. He did not expect this old man to be so stubborn. From his attitude and manner, it was obvious that the old man did not know the map was leading to the ‘Purifying Demonic Lotus Flame’. Yet, he still refused to sell it. This caused Xiao Yan to feel a little frustrated in his heart.

“Old sir, I must get hold of this thing today. Even if you refuse, I will forcefully take it away!” The smile on Xiao Yan’s face gradually disappeared as he helplessly said.

“You? The old me may have lived in isolation for the last few decades due to some reasons, but this is not your place as a tier two alchemist to speak to me in such a manner!” Hearing Xiao Yan’s words, a mocking smile appeared on the old face of the old man as he coldly said.

Skimming his lips together, Xiao Yan did not continue to exchange nonsensical words with the old man. The tip of his toe stepped out and his body swiftly retreated to the door of the room.

“You are seeking death!”

Seeing Xiao Yan’s action, the old man’s face was filled with anger, making the sinister looking scar look much more fierce. His feet stepped off the ground and his body shot toward Xiao Yan like lightning.

As the old man flashed passed, icy air quickly spread throughout the interior of the shop. A faint fog completely blocked Xiao Yan’s sight.

With his gaze being covered by the surrounding icy fog, Xiao Yan’s expression changed. He knew that this time around he was in some real trouble.

Chapter 178: Fight

With the Dou Qi cloak covering his body, Xiao Yan could clearly feel that his body's condition had improved a lot. He immediately grabbed the Heavy Xuan Ruler on his back tightly and pulled at it forcefully. Following a soft sound, the Heavy Xuan Ruler pierced the ground and created a deep imprint.

With his hand tightly holding the heavy ruler, Xiao Yan's gaze cautiously swept across the surrounding fog that had pervaded the room.

When the purple colored Dou Qi cloak that emitted the Purple Flame appeared on Xiao Yan's body, a soft shocked gasp was clearly emitted from the surrounding white colored fog.

Evidently, that mysterious old man had not expected Xiao Yan to be able to summon a Dou Qi cloak that was accompanied by a Dou Qi flame.

"Old sir, I have no ill intentions nor do I want to disturb old sir's isolation. It is just that this map fragment is extremely important to me. I implore old sir to accommodate me!" As his gaze swept across the surroundings, Xiao Yan shouted.

"Hmph. Back then I spent a lot of effort in order to obtain this thing. Although I still do not exactly know what it is for despite studying it for over a decade, I do at least know that the secret it holds is not something small. You want me to hand it over to you for no reason? In your dreams!" From within the penetrating icy fog, the old man coldly laughed.

Xiao Yan frowned. He was about to open his mouth again when his heart abruptly trembled. The heavy ruler in his hand was swiftly placed at his front before his body hurriedly hid behind it.

"Puff..." Following the gentle sound of breaking wind, a few white colored icicles shot out from the fog. They finally emitted a clanging sound as they knocked against the Heavy Xuan Ruler in front of Xiao Yan.

After the icicles hit the Heavy Xuan Ruler, they suddenly turned into a pool of icy water and layered over the body of the ruler. At the same time,

the hand which Xiao Yan used to hold the Heavy Xuan Ruler felt an icy cold feeling that continued to flow toward his body.

Xiao Yan's expression changed slightly. He gently flicked his finger and a purple colored flame rose from his palm. After which, it swiftly swept across the surface of the ruler and melted away all the icy frost and cold air on it.

"What? Purple colored flame? How unexpected that you actually possess so many different unique things at such a young age. No wonder you are so bold." Seeing Xiao Yan's action, the old man hiding in the fog once again said with surprise.

Xiao Yan narrowed his eyes and did not reply. His gaze was locked tightly on the surrounding fog. His footsteps followed the route he had remembered in his mind and retreated.

"Although my strength cannot be compared to the past after being harmed by that thing which deserves to die, it is not difficult to handle a small fly like you!" Perceiving Xiao Yan's stealthy actions, the old man laughed coldly from within the fog. A white figure suddenly shot out from the fog and closed the gap between it and Xiao Yan at lightning like speed.

The old man's sudden charge caused a shocked expression to appear on Xiao Yan's face. His palm tightly held the heavy ruler and smashed violently toward the human figure in front of him.

Seeing the huge ruler that was nearing with the sound of oppressive wind, the old man's hands swiftly formed a seal as he softly called out, "Congeal Ice Mirror!"

Following the seal being formed by the old man's hand, the white colored Dou Qi in front of him suddenly began to change. An instant later, an ice mirror around half a meter in both width and height suddenly coagulated and was formed in front of him.

"Bang!" The heavy ruler ferociously hacked downwards and finally smashed heavily on the ice mirror. Instantly, Xiao Yan's expression changed. He realized through his senses that at the moment when the heavy ruler hacked on the ice mirror, a strong reverse force strangely shot

upwards. Finally, it threw the unprepared Xiao Yan backwards.

Watching the pale faced Xiao Yan being thrown backwards, the old man once again laughed coldly. He waved his hand and tens of spiral shaped icicles quickly formed in front of him. When the old man waved his hand again, they howled as they explosively shot toward Xiao Yan from all directions.

After dragging his feet on the ground for some distance, Xiao Yan lifted his head and watched the large number of ice pricks that were coming at him and the icy energy mixed between them. He knitted his eyebrows together and his feet suddenly stepped on the ground. Following an explosion, he body shot violently upwards.

Having dodged the icicle attacks while his body was in mid air, Xiao Yan suddenly rotated his body. The Heavy Xuan Ruler in his hand used the spinning force as it left Xiao Yan's hand and violently and angrily shot toward the old man.

The heavy ruler shot out and under it's own great weight, it flew forward as if it had broken the air. There was a faint purple arc that appeared on its surface and left a afterimage line behind it.

Seeing the Heavy Xuan Ruler explosively shooting at him, the old man's eyebrows twitched with surprise. The young man in front of him was giving him too many surprises.

However, surprises remained only surprises. The old man did not show any mercy when he attacked. With an open and close of his palms, he created numerous tiny ice threads. He tossed his hands and the ice threads shot upwards before they headed for the heavy ruler from all direction and harassed it. In only a moment, it binded the heavy ruler in a thick layer of white colored ice threads.

Under the harassment caused by the ice threads from all directions, the ferocious force that the heavy ruler carried was swiftly removed. When it was around half a meter from the old man's head, it finally came to a stop.

Carelessly glancing at the heavy ruler that was tightly covered by ice threads above his head, the old man laughed coldly. He swung his palm

and the ruler hissed as it spun around in midair and under the influence of the ice threads, the ruler violently shot angrily at Xiao Yan who was in mid air and had no support to borrow force from.

Under the control of the old man, the force carried by the heavy ruler was not much weaker than the attack previously done by Xiao Yan with all his strength. If the ruler smashed unrestrained, Xiao Yan would be unable to escape the fate of being seriously injured.

Watching the approaching heavy ruler, Xiao Yan helplessly shook his head. His back shook slightly and his pair of Purple Cloud Wings extended out. The wings flapped, prompting his figure to quickly climb higher. Finally, he dodged the heavy ruler that was shot at him.

“What? Dou Qi Wings?” Seeing the pair of wings that shot out from Xiao Yan’s back, the old man’s eyes shrunk as he said with astonishment. A moment later, he shook his head. With a frown, he said, “It doesn’t look like Dou Qi Wings. Don’t tell me... it is a flying Dou Technique?”

“Great. Why is it that this kid is filled with treasures?” The old man slowly shook his head as he said in a stunned voice.

Ignoring how much shock the appearance of the Purple Cloud Wings gave the old man, Xiao Yan took advantage of him being distracted and pounced forward ferociously. The purple colored flame on his hand writhed as he flicked his finger so that a strand of Purple Flame shot out. The strand quickly found the main ice thread connected to the heavy ruler and burned it.

Losing the drive from the ice thread, the Heavy Xuan Ruler quickly fell. Xiao Yan flapped his pair of wings and swiftly charged forward. When his ten fingers flicked, the Purple Flame on his hand formed numerous tiny flames that completely burned away all the ice threads on the Heavy Xuan Ruler.

After completely removing the ice threads, Xiao Yan finally dared to once again hold the Heavy Xuan Ruler in his hand. Holding the Heavy Xuan Ruler, his wings quickly flapped once more and Xiao Yan’s body suddenly shot into the air.

Standing on the ground, the old man watched Xiao Yan who intended to break through the roof to escape. His face could not help but form a ridiculing and joking expression.

The speed of Xiao Yan's rising grew increasingly faster. However, after the Purple Cloud Wings flapped twice, he felt that there was a dense cold air being emitted a short distance from the top of his head.

Feeling this icy air, Xiao Yan felt his heart tighten. The Heavy Xuan Ruler suddenly stabbed angrily above his head.

“Clang!”

The heavy ruler that stabbed upwards seemed to have clashed against something, emitting a clear sound. At the same time, a few tiny pieces of ice slowly fell and dropped on Xiao Yan's face. The icy feeling caused his heart to sink. He did not expect that the old man would be able to turn the room into a hard igloo in such a short period of time.

Giving up his intention on forcefully breaking a hole, Xiao Yan gradually flapped his wings. His body descended as he coldly stared at the old man standing in the fog.

“Tsk tsk, a rare flying Dou Technique, unique purple colored flame, strange agility Dou Techniques, you have far surpassed the strength of an average Dou Shi. Boy, are you the disciple of the Leader of the Misty Cloud Sect? Or are you the young master of some extremely big clan? Maybe you are a member of the royalty?” Raising his head, the old man asked with great interest as he watched Xiao Yan, who was flapping his Purplish-black colored wing in mid air.

Xiao Yan licked his lips as he stared cautiously at the old man and did not reply.

“Even if you possess the identities that I have stated, however, you will not be able to take the fragment map piece and leave here today.” Touching the scar on his old face with his hand, the old man said with a voice that was gradually turning colder.

“Although you possess many different techniques, you are but a Dou Shi.

My current strength may have been greatly reduced but it is not difficult for me to finish you off.” The old voice said blandly, “Hand over the fragment and I will let you leave. I also don’t want others to ruin the years of my secluded lifestyle.”

Eyeing this stubborn old man, Xiao Yan helplessly sighed. He laughed bitterly in his heart, “Teacher, it seems that you have to act. I am indeed no match for him. Even though his strength is incomparable to the past, it is as he had said: Finishing me off is nothing difficult.”

“Ke ke, it is indeed not difficult. After all, the difference in your strength is over two entire classes. Moreover, the Dou Techniques that guy possesses are not weaker than yours. The exchange earlier was only meant to test your strength. If he really became serious, you would not be able hold out for more than five exchanges.” Yao Lao’s voice sounded in Xiao Yan’s heart.

Xiao Yan smiled bitterly and nodded. After having a brief exchange with that old man, he naturally knew the other’s strength. If it was not for the fact that the old man could not transform his Dou Qi into wings, Xiao Yan might have been captured long ago.

“Ah... leave it to me, I will temporarily control your body.”

Regarding this, Yao Lao did not refuse. He knew that even if he wanted to use real battles to train Xiao Yan, there was also a limit. With Xiao Yan’s strength which was had just achieved the level of a Dou Shi, it would be undoubtedly be a joke if he went to challenge someone who’s fighting ability was once that of a Dou Huang’s.

“Old sir, I have told you that this piece of map fragment is something I must obtain!” Xiao Yan first nodded his head before he shrugged his shoulders at the old man. In an abrupt manner, he gradually closed his eyes.

Seeing Xiao Yan’s strange action, the old man felt a little stunned. He frowned and a moment later, his expression suddenly changed. He noticed a ferocious force that was not inferior to his own suddenly explode from the young man’s body in midair.

“How is this possible?” Feeling the steady climb of the strength of Xiao Yan’s pressure, the old man’s insipid face finally revealed a shocked expression.

Chapter 179: Yao Lao Taking Action

Within the environment of the permeating icy fog, it was as though one had walked into a space filled with cold air. The surrounding white fog was widespread and one could not see an end to it.

In the midst of the white fog, the old man raised his head as he watched the young man in midair with an astonished face. A moment later, his expression gradually turned grave as he growled in a low voice, "Boy, what is this Secret Technique?"

It was not at all strange that the old man would feel so shocked. Although on this Dou Qi continent, there was no shortage of some Secret Techniques that could swiftly raise one's strength, the rank of these Secret Techniques were at least of the Di Rank. On this Dou Qi continent, the people or forces that could take out such a Secret Technique were only a few ultimate forces or extremely strong people that could be counted with one's fingers. In the eyes of these ultimately strong forces or people, the strong people in the Jia Ma Empire were undoubtedly just like fireflies who were competing with the bright moon on their brightness.

"Don't tell me this brat originates from one of those forces?" A shocking thought flashed across the old man's heart. Under the shock of the frightening and aloof strength of those forces, he found it difficult to keep his heart calm.

"No way! Although this brat has many different unique treasures on him, the Qi Method that he trained with seemed to be weaker than Xuan Class. This definitely doesn't look like the style of those forces!" The old man was a little shocked in his heart but a moment later, he began to slowly suppress this feeling as he comforted himself.

The old man gradually recovered his calm. His expression was grave as his dry pair of hands grasped each other. The surrounding icy, cold fog swiftly congelated and finally formed a snow white ice lance in between his hands. Despite having used his Dou Qi to solidify into an ice lance, the old man still felt insecure. He used one hand to quickly form a seal before

softly calling out, "Ice Spirit Armor!"

Following his call, the surrounding permeating icy fog immediately formed into a thick ice vest with a twinkling ice cold luster.

The weapon on the old man's hand and the ice armor on his body were entirely formed from the coagulation of his Dou Qi. At the very least, it required the strength of a Dou Ling in order to barely accomplish this.

On the Dou Qi continent, most people, upon reaching Da Dou Shi, would be able to emit Dou Qi out of their body. For example, they could use their Dou Qi to cover their weapons and greatly increase their offensive strength. When they reached the Dou Ling level, they would be able to condense and form weapons and armors made completely of Dou Qi, just like the old man just did. These kinds of weapons and protections were naturally something that an ordinary weapon or armor could not compare to.

By being able to cause the old man to use his full strength and be serious, it could be seen just what kind of level Xiao Yan's improved strength had risen to within the old man's heart.

Xiao Yan ignored the completely armed appearance of the old man below. In midair, the pressure that was emitted from within Xiao Yan's body grew increasingly rich. At some point, he suddenly gave a long howl toward the sky. The long howl contained a turbulent Dou Qi that blew the permeating fog under him and scattered nearly half of it.

Seeing that Xiao Yan merely used a long howl to break the thick fog, the old man's expression once again changed. He did not dare slight Xiao Yan. Waving the ice lance in his hand, an uncountable number of extremely sharp icicles swiftly formed in the air above his head. After which, they carried the sound of piercing wind as they shot toward Xiao Yan.

In midair, the howling gradually stopped. Xiao Yan flapped his pair of wings and his body was like a large rock as it quickly swooped down. He indifferently eyed the icicles that were headed for him from all directions before facing his palms at each other and gently clapping them together.

Following the clap, a shapeless energy was scattered from his hands in a

lightning like manner. After which, the icicles that were coming at him from all directions emitted a cracking sound... presenting a spectacular sight as they turned into cold white powder in midair...

“This is... Spiritual Strength?” Seeing his fast spinning icicles being turned into powder without the slightest foreboding, the white haired old man stilled slightly before crying out involuntarily,

Ignoring the shock of the old man, Xiao Yan flapped his wings and directly flashed toward the space above the old man. His hands tightly gripped the Heavy Xuan Ruler and suddenly hacked downwards.

The waving of the Heavy Xuan Sword this time around almost completely sheared the air into two. The space where the heavy ruler passed was actually left with a faint black scar..

Although the attack this time around did not have the forceful sound it had before, the old man’s face became much more serious when the heavy ruler was swung. His heart clearly knew that despite this attack being quiet, the damaging ability that it possessed was something that the earlier attack could not compare to...

Carefully taking a step back, the old man tightened his fist. Instantly, the ice lance shot out while carrying a bone chilling cold force.

Seeing that the old man actually chose to take the attack head on, a faint mocking glint flashed across Xiao Yan’s eyes. The heavy ruler suddenly sped up before finally clashing with the ice lance attack.

As the heavy ruler and the ice lance knocked against each other, a ferocious energy ripple was immediately scattered from the point of contact and shook the ground of the room until numerous spider web like crack lines appeared.

“Break!” Just as the contact occurred, the ice lance was compressed into a bow like shape. When Xiao Yan coldly shouted, the ice lance suddenly broke with a cracking sound and ice shavings shot out in all directions.

For the old man’s weapon to be easily broken by the opponent in just one round, the old man’s expression quickly turned ugly. He did not

expect that the young man would change into an entirely different person in just a few short minutes. The strength he displayed currently was entirely incomparable to what he displayed before!

If Xiao Yan was just a Dou Shi before, the current him had at least reached the Dou Wang level. This horrifying gap caused the old man to be a little aghast in his heart.

TL: Dou Shi -> Da Dou Shi -> Dou Ling -> Dou Wang

“What exactly did this guy do?” A thought swiftly flashed through his heart. The old man tipped his toe and his figure hurriedly retreated. As he retreated, his hand swiftly moved about. Following which, seven flickering cold ice mirrors were quickly coagulated and formed, completely blocking the path that Xiao Yan had to use while chasing him.

Before the old man could relax after fixing up the seven ice mirrors, he heard repeated clear sounds. Raising his eyes, he was shocked to discover that Xiao Yan, who was carrying the heavy ruler in his hand, swerved about recklessly as he charged forward. The ice mirrors along the way were burnt into nothingness by the purple colored flame on his body before they could even make contact.

“Damn brat, I don’t believe that after having lived in isolation for over twenty years, I would actually have no strength to retaliate against a young brat like you!” Being repeatedly and swiftly attacked by Xiao Yan, the old man was gradually becoming angry. His eyebrows shot up as his feet slammed on the ground. The ice Dou Qi chilled the surrounding few meters of ground so much that a thick layer of ice was formed.

“Xuan Ice Killing Vortex!”

The old man’s hands swiftly formed seals in front of him before his throat suddenly let out a low roar. Instantly, numerous crescent shaped blades appeared and rotated beside him.

The ice blades continued to increase in numbers. At the end, they totally covered the old man’s body within them. Then, the ice blades connected with one another, forming a small spiral storm that was completely formed from the integration of ice blades.

“Go!” From within the storm, a low shout was emitted. The ice blade storm suddenly spun toward Xiao Yan with the intention to kill. Along the way, the ground of the room was devastated with many ditches appearing. Some of the water crystal counters even exploded when the ice blades slashed passed. The fragments of crystals that appeared were as smooth as mirrors.

With cold eyes, Xiao Yan watched the old man who was charging at him using that ferocious attack. His footsteps unexpectedly came to a sudden stop while the purple colored flame and the ferocious force that was shrouding his body were completely withdrawn into his body.

The current Xiao Yan did not have any defences on his body. Even the Heavy Xuan Ruler was abandoned and stuck at his side.

“Brat, you are seeking death!” Seeing Xiao Yan’s action, the somewhat angry cry of the old man was emitted from within the ice blade vortex. Clearly, the old man was extremely angry at this action of Xiao Yan’s which implied that he was looking down on his opponent. Originally, with the old man’s position, it was somewhat inappropriate for him to strike someone of a younger generation. He had now used all of his strength but under these circumstances, his opponent actually chose to give up on defense. This undoubtedly gave a blow to the old man’s pride as someone strong.

Ignoring the anger of the old man, Xiao Yan felt the oppressive feeling that was emitted from the space in front of him. He gently sighed as he slowly extended his hand. After which, it gently shook and a thick white flame suddenly soared.

After the thick white flame appeared, Xiao Yan’s feet suddenly stomped on the ground. Following the sound of an explosion, his body became like an arrow released from a bow, turning into a trail of light as he shot toward that small scale ice blade storm that was spinning toward him in a lightning like manner.

“Since you seek death, don’t blame me!”

Seeing Xiao Yan who actually decided to meet his attack head on, the old

man within the storm coldly yelled. Although his current strength was much weaker than before, there were not many people who would choose to meet his attack directly when he displayed this High Xuan level 'Mysterious Ice Killing Vortex'. Xiao Yan's current actions had undoubtedly made the old man feel that the former was seeking death.

Ignoring the angry cry, Xiao Yan directly rushed into the storm. His arm was almost entirely covered by the thick white flame as his arm was suddenly inserted into the storm.

When his arm was inserted into the storm, a terrifying energy ripple suddenly scattered within the interior of the room and lifted the floor up to a height of nearly half a meter.

"Ka cha..."

Xiao Yan maintained his posture with his hand being inserted into the storm. A momentary standstill occurred before the ice wind storm which was originally swiftly rotating suddenly began to slow. Under the cracking sound, the ice wind storm was actually completely frozen into a huge snow white ice pillar.

Indifferently eyeing the ice pillar in front of him, Xiao Yan slowly pulled his hand out from within and gently tapped on the ice pillar with his finger.

"Bang!" With a muffled sound, the ice pillar suddenly burst forcefully and turned into icy cold white powder that was sprinkled from midair onto the ground.

The bursting of the ice pillar revealed the old man inside who was covered by a faint layer of thin ice.

Xiao Yan's eyes squinted as he watched that old man. A moment later, he once again opened them. At the moment, the indifference and life experience within those dark black eyes had completely disappeared. Replacing it was the vigor that a young man ought to have.

"Old sir, you have lost. I'm sorry but this thing belongs to me." Clapping his hand, Xiao Yan smiled at the old man as he spoke.

Chapter 180: The One Who Was Once Among the Top Ten. Ice Emperor!

Eyeing the old man in front of him who was covered in a layer of demonic and mysterious white ice, Xiao Yan heaved a sigh of relief. He waved his hand apologetically at the old man before turning around and leaving.

“Boy, I really underestimated you.” Just as Xiao Yan was turning his body, the tired voice of the old man was released from the layer of ice.

Pausing his footsteps, Xiao Yan tilted his head and watched the old man in the layer of ice slowly open his eyes. However, Xiao Yan didn't feel any panic in his heart. This was because he knew that with the strength the old man currently had, it was impossible for him to break out of the barrier that Yao Lao had placed.

Sighing, Xiao Yan bitterly smiled, “Old sir, I have already said that I do not have any intention of becoming enemies with you. It is just that this thing is really important to me, therefore...”

“Ha ha, it is really unexpected that after living in isolation here for over twenty years, I would actually be thrown into such a dire state by a kid today. It really is somewhat sad.” The old man's voice was a little desolated. A moment later, however, his tone suddenly changed. His gaze passed through the demonic and mysterious layer of ice and stared at Xiao Yan outside. He said blandly, “Boy, is this map fragment very important to you?”

Xiao Yan was briefly silent before nodding his head.

“Haha.” Seeing his action, the old man let out a laugh. His smile was somewhat strange.

Frowning, Xiao Yan ignored him as he turned around and walked toward the exit.

“Back then, after I spent all my effort in the desert to obtain this map fragment, I used all my years of experience in making maps to perfectly

split it into two. One of them has just been taken by you, the other piece... hee hee.” The old man coldly laughed.

Xiao Yan’s footsteps paused. With his back facing the old man, his finger tapped on the storage ring. The fragment map piece from before quickly appeared in his palm. After Xiao Yan placed it in front of his eyes to take a look, he realized that the size of this fragment map piece was approximately half the size of the one he found in the cave on the Magic Beast Mountain Range.

Holding the map fragment in his hand, Xiao Yan’s expression became a little ugly. He was a little frustrated that after putting in so much effort, he had only obtained half of a map fragment.

Letting out his breath, Xiao Yan carefully stored the map fragment into the storage ring and slowly turned around. He coldly eyed the old man and said, “You could have chosen to not reveal this secret and that I would not take your life. But now, you’ve said it... you, are you forcing me to kill you?”

“Hehe. Boy, don’t use death to threaten me. Having lived most of my life, what kind of difficulties have I not faced. When I was dominating within the Jia Ma Empire, you had yet to be born! Do you think that I would be afraid of this little threat? Moreover, if I die, even if you have some great ability, you would not be able to find the other small map fragment. Hehe, when that time comes, with one small map fragment missing, you would not be able to find the treasure the map leads to even if you can complete the map.” The old man said with disdain as he faced Xiao Yan’s cold voice that was filled with killing intent.

Xiao Yan narrowed his eyes as a cold glint flashed across it. He gently took in a breath, tightened his fist and blandly said, “Say. What do you want to do? Since you are willing to reveal this secret, you cannot be so foolish as to merely use it to anger me, can you?”

“You really have quite a good mind. I’m really curious just which abnormal old guy is your teacher. I dare not say anything now but I am certain that you will be standing at the peak of the Jia Ma Empire ten

years later.” Seeing Xiao Yan’s calm manner, the old man could not help but praise.

Without accepting or denying this high praise by the old man, Xiao Yan glanced at him and said with a frown, “Say it. What do you want before you are willing to hand over that other small map fragment.”

“Can you release me from this layer of ice? Of course, that is if you aren’t afraid that I will retaliate.” The old man said with a smile.

Xiao Yan narrowed his eyes as he stared at the old man. A moment later, he gradually closed his eyes before opening it. Slowly walking forward, his palm gently touched the layer of ice and shook slightly. A thread of thick white flames was inserted into the ice, swiftly melting away the demonic and mysterious layer of ice.

“If I can lock you up once, I will be able to do it a second time. So, don’t try any tricks. Otherwise, it will be your blood that will become ice the next time around.” With the wave of his hand, Xiao Yan broke away this demonic and mysterious layer of ice that even a Dou Ling could do nothing about. His pair of dark black eyes suddenly became profound and experienced once again.

After breaking the ice layer, Xiao Yan’s head moved slightly back. The profoundness swiftly disappeared from his eyes. Gradually lowering his head and watching the old man who was repeatedly shivering after breaking out of the ice, he said, “Say it.”

“What a frightening icy cold flame. If I guess correctly, the flame that you had just used should be one of the magical ‘Heavenly Flame’s, right?” The old man said in a horrified voice as his pale face continued to shiver.

Xiao Yan lifted his eyes but did not comment.

Seeing Xiao Yan’s manner, an obvious joy appeared in the old man’s eyes. However, a moment later, the joy was swiftly suppressed. Voicing his thought, he said, “You already know that my original strength was that of a Dou Huang, right?”

“Yes.” Xiao Yan nodded his head.

“Then do you know my identity?” The old man once again asked.

“I don’t.”

Seeing Xiao Yan shake his head, the old man also helplessly did the same. However, his face swarmed with pride as he said, “My name is Hai Bodong. You may not have heard of this name but I think you should have heard of my other name.”

“Ice Emperor!”

When he heard the two words ‘Ice Emperor’, Xiao Yan first stilled. Quickly following that, his face clearly changed. His gaze carried a bizarre expression as he observed the old man who had been continuously suppressed by him. Although Xiao Yan had always been staying at Wu Tan City in the past, he was not unfamiliar with this strong person who was once extremely well known within the Jia Ma Empire.

Ice Emperor, a member of the previous generation of the Top Ten in the Jia Ma Empire. He was both prideful and introverted while being extremely good at using Ice type Dou Qi. Once, in anger, he had sealed an entire city in ice. Back then, he was one of the few Dou Huangs among the Ten Strong. Later on, he had a huge fight at the peak of the Misty Cloud Mountain with the previous leader of the Misty Cloud Sect. Although he was finally defeated, his opponent had a very difficult victory. During the last time Jia Ma Empire and Chu Yun Empire held a convention for the strong, he single handedly fought a Dou Huang and a Dou Wang from the other side and was not defeated, shocking all present.

After the last convention for the strong, Ice Emperor gradually disappeared from the sight of many people. Now, the name Ice Emperor only existed personally in the memories of the older generation. The current generation of the top ten had already replaced their fame and glory.

Xiao Yan had never expected that this old man, who did not have a very pleasing appearance, would actually be the Ice Emperor who had once caused the upper echelons of the Dou Zhes in the Chu Yun Empire to have a headache. This kind of drama like result made him feel a little

stunned.

“Heh, luckily my old name has not vanished with time. You actually have heard of it...” Seeing Xiao Yan’s stunned expression, Hai Bodong laughed in a somewhat pleased manner.

Gradually inhaling a breath, Xiao Yan sighed, “Indeed it is an answer that shocked me. I did not expect that the Dou Huang whose name had reverberated throughout the Jia Ma Empire would actually be living in isolation in the desert area as a shop owner selling maps.”

“Why did you end up like that? The strength that you displayed earlier seemed to be only that of a Dou Ling, right?” Xiao Yan curiously asked.

Hearing this, Hai Bodong bitterly nodded his head and sighed, “Back then, after attending the convention between the empires, I came to the Tager Desert. By accident, I obtained the map fragment but I attracted the emperor of the Snake People, Queen Medusa who chased me with the intention to kill. You should know that the strength of Queen Medusa can be ranked among the peak among the Dou Huangs. Was it not for the Snake People having only this one strong person, they might have long ago tried to attack the human empires.”

“In that battle, I was defeated by her hands without question. Although I found a chance to escape in the end, I was struck by her Curse of the Snakes Seal. Not only did my body quickly become old, even my strength was sealed to the level of a Dou Ling.” Hai Bodong sighed, “In all these years, I have been hiding here, studying the secret of the map fragment and hoping to obtain something that could undo my seal. However, this map fragment is merely a small part of the map. No matter how experienced I am, I cannot crack it.”

“You aren’t think of getting me to break the seal for you, are you?” Xiao Yan said as he narrowed his eyes and twitched his eyebrow.

“Yes.”

“Uh... you really think too highly of me. I don’t have that ability.” Shaking his head, Xiao Yan laughed dryly. He did not dare bear such a heavy responsibility.

“Over the last few decades, I have obtained a medicinal formula that can break the seal. As long as you refine the medicinal pill on it, I will be able to regain my strength.” Hai Bodong said gravely.

“... I think you should go and find Pill-King Gu He. In the entire Jia Ma Empire there should not be many people who can beat him in refining medicine. I am merely a tier two alchemist.” Xiao Yan shrugged his shoulders and said helplessly.

“He won’t do.” Hai Bodong shook his head and said with a bitter smile, “The key requirement for refining this kind of medicinal pill is that the alchemist must possess a ‘Heavenly Flame’... Pill-King Gu He, doesn’t appear to have that.”

“Oh?” Hearing this, Xiao Yan felt a little shocked in his heart. What kind of medicinal pill would have such a stringent requirement?

“Originally, I would not tell you about the news on the other small map fragment, However... the thick white flame that you displayed in the end led me to change my mind.”

“As long as you can refine the medicinal pill that I need, I will hand over that small map fragment to you. At the same time, I, Ice Emperor Hai Bodong, would also owe you a favor. You ought to know... how much a favor from a Dou Huang is worth...” Hai Bodong said seriously.

Hearing this, Xiao Yan’s heart was slightly interested. He softly inquired, “What is the tier of the medicinal pill you need?”

“Tier six.” Hai Bodong licked his lips and said with a smile.

Rolling his eyes, Xiao Yan helplessly waved his hand. “Tier six... even if I possess a ‘Heavenly Flame’, I am but a tier two alchemist. How could I possibly refine a medicinal pill of that grade?”

“I believe that your strength is not the little bit that you display on the surface...” When faced with Xiao Yan’s helplessness, Hai Bodong cunningly smiled as he said.

Xiao Yan sighed and became quiet. In his heart, he softly asked, “Teacher, what do you think?”

“Regardless of what happens, that map fragment that is related to the ‘Purifying Demonic Lotus Flame’ is something we must obtain. It will play an extremely crucial role in evolving your Qi Method in the future!” Yao Lao mused and said.

“You mean... we say yes?”

“Yes, promise him first. In any case, a favor from a Dou Huang is worth this price.”

“But I am worried that once this old man regains his strength, then...” Xiao Yan rotated his eyes and cautiously said.

“Keke, relax. With me around, even if he recovered his strength, he would not be able to snatch the map fragment back. Moreover... when refining the medicinal pill, can we not make some preparations for the unexpected?” Yao Lao smiled faintly and said.

Hearing this, Xiao Yan heaved a sigh of relief. He raised his head to watch Hai Bodong whose face was filled with anticipation. Nodding his head, he smiled and said, “Alright, I’ll agree.”

Chapter 181: Journey Through The Desert

Seeing Xiao Yan nod his head, Hai Bodong finally sighed in relief. The smile on his old face grew a little wider.

“Give me the medicinal formula... Oh, yes, you know the rule when hiring an alchemist to refine medicine, don’t you?” Xiao Yan smiled at Hai Bodong. “Prepare the ingredients yourself!”

Hai Bodong nodded with a bitter smile. He naturally knew the rule, but all the same his dry palm grabbed threads of hair that could be counted as a beard as he said with some embarrassment, “I have gathered most of the medicinal ingredients required by the medicinal formula. However, I am still missing one of them.”

“This medicinal ingredient’s name is Sand’s Datura, can only be found in the Tager Desert and is easiest to find in places where the temperature is higher.... You should know that I train using an ice type Qi Technique. Additionally, my body also has the seal Queen Medusa left behind. If I step into the inner regions of the Tager Desert, she will discover my presence... so...”

Seeing Hai Bodong’s embarrassed expression, Xiao Yan rolled his eyes and curled his lips as he said, “You aren’t asking me to search for it, are you? I am already losing out just by helping you refine the medicine, now you want me to help you look for medicinal ingredients in the vast desert... Isn’t your small map fragment a little too valuable?”

Hearing this, Hai Bodong gave an awkward smile. He hesitated for a while before he helplessly said, “Alright, I might be able to give you information on something you might be interested in.”

“What information?” Xiao Yan asked in surprise.

“It is related to a ‘Heavenly Flame’...” Hai Bodong waved his hand and asked with a smile “Is this information enough to motivate you to help me look for the Sand’s Datura?” Once he heard the two words ‘Heavenly Flame’, Xiao Yan’s heart beat violently. His throat rolled slightly as his heated gaze stared at Hai Bodong in front of him.

“You might have heard some news about a ‘Heavenly Flame’ in the Tager Desert?” Seeing Xiao Yan’s expression, Hai Bodong let out a relieved sigh in his heart as he said with a smile.

“Yes.” Nodding his head slightly, Xiao Yan anxiously asked, “Do you know exactly where the ‘Heavenly Flame’ is located within the Tager Desert?”

“As a map maker, I had once roamed around the Tager Desert. By luck, I obtained some information about a ‘Heavenly Flame’. I surveyed some of the locations and routes from this information. Although I still cannot be certain where exactly the ‘Heavenly Flame’ is located, I can roughly guess which areas have the highest chance of possessing the ‘Heavenly Flame’.” Hai Bodong said with an extremely pleased smile.

“If you do not have my guidance, even if you spent an entire year roaming the Tager Desert, it would be near impossible for you to find the ‘Heavenly Flame’.”

“What do you think? As long as you agree to help me obtain the Sand’s Datura, I will give you all the information from my research on the location of the ‘Heavenly Flame’.” Hai Bodong said with a smile.

“Deal!”

Xiao Yan immediately agreed without the slightest hesitation. The attraction a ‘Heavenly Flame’ posed to him was far too great. In order to obtain it, Xiao Yan was willing to pay a huge price.

Seeing that Xiao Yan had agreed, Hai Bodong nodded his head with a smile. His palm gently searched his breast pocket before finally taking out a thin goatskin parchment and handing it to Xiao Yan. He said, “After surveying a couple places, I have concluded that there are three places which are most likely to possess a ‘Heavenly Flame’ within the Tager Desert.”

Receiving the goatskin parchment, Xiao Yan carefully opened it and realized that it was an extremely detailed map of the vast Tager Desert. This map was not something that the other maps on the counter could compare with. On it, not only were there clear indications of the water

sources present in the desert, it even marked in great detail the locations of the Snake People tribes that were scattered in the desert.

“Can you see the three flame symbols on the map?” Hai Bodong smiled and reminded.

Hearing this, Xiao Yan’s gaze swept across the map and found that in three directions: east, west, and north, there were very eye catching flame symbols.

“In the Tager Desert, these three places have the highest possibility of a ‘Heavenly Flame’ being present .” Pointing his finger at the three flame symbols, Hai Bodong smiled and said, “Of course these are places that I have reasoned out after surveying much of the desert. The accuracy cannot be a hundred percent, but it is much better than you randomly searching for it.”

Xiao Yan nodded his head. Even though he had Yao Lao’s help, it would be extremely difficult to search for the location of the ‘Heavenly Flame’ in the Tager Desert due to it being far too vast. This detailed map of Hai Bodong’s would undoubtedly help him save a lot of time and effort.

“You should remember that it would be best to head for the eastern and northern places with the flame symbol first. As for the western one... it would be best to avoid going there if possible.” Hai Bodong gravely reminded as his finger stopped at the flame symbol on the western side.

“Why?”

“Because that area is close to the inner regions of the Tager Desert. Queen Medusa can feel any human’s breath after they enter her territory. Although you possess many different unique treasures, I don’t think you have much of a chance of escaping alive if you meet that terrifying Queen Medusa.” Hai Bodong sighed with lingering fear in his heart.

“Okay... I will try my best.”

Xiao Yan nodded his head. However, he knew in his heart that if he could not find any trace of a ‘Heavenly Flame’ in the other two places, there was a good chance that he would head for the western flame symbol.

Even if that place was filled with danger, he would not hesitate entering it. This was because a 'Heavenly Flame' possessed just too much of an attraction to him...

"This is all the help that I can give you. I hope that you will be able to successfully obtain the 'Heavenly Flame' and return with the Sand's Datura." Seeing Xiao Yan carefully put away the map, Hai Bodong said with a smile, "As for the medicinal formula and the map fragment, please allow me to keep it safe for this period of time. When you return, I will hand everything back over to you."

"Okay." Nodding his head, Xiao Yan faced Hai Bodong, cupped his hands together and said, "Since it is like that, then I bid you farewell. I am really sorry for creating a mess in old sir's place."

Sweeping his gaze over the messy room, Hai Bodong shook his head and smiled bitterly. "Forget it. I have used up all my patience living here in isolation. Even if you didn't smash this place, I don't think I would have continued for much longer anyway."

With a smile, Xiao Yan once again apologized. After which, he waved his hand at Hai Bodong as he turned around and walked out of the door.

Seeing Xiao Yan opening the door and slowly disappear, Hai Bodong narrowed his eyes and was quiet for a moment. After which, he began to clean up the messy place.

Outside the ancient looking shop's door, Xiao Yan raised his head and allowed the hot sunlight to spill onto his face like boiling water. A long while later, he gently sighed. The experience in these two short hours had given him a dream like feeling. He had only just arrived at Desert City and randomly entered a shop. Yet, he had already met a strong person living in isolation. This kind of plot that existed only in stories had actually occurred in reality in front of him. He could not help but sigh emotionally.

"Ugh, I am able to meet someone who was once a Dou Huang by just randomly entering somewhere... Am I lucky or unlucky?" Letting out a short, bitter laugh, Xiao Yan released a breath of air and strode down the street. Gently touching the ring, he suddenly asked casually in his heart,

“Teacher, do you think that he can be trusted?”

“It is indeed true that he had received a seal. But you are asking whether there is a problem with the map he gave us right? Keke, we have to follow the route on it and if he had any ill intentions, we might really get into some trouble.” Yao Lao laughed before he voiced his thoughts, “But this map will indeed provide us quite a lot of help. The three areas with the flame symbol are places that I did not visit back then. Therefore, I cannot say for certain if it is real or fake...”

“Although we cannot determine if he has any ill intentions, we should always take some precautions... Once we enter the Tager Desert, try to be a little more careful. We do not need to walk completely as the map dictates. Back then, I had roamed around this place for some time so I do have some knowledge and will help you to not lose your way.” Yao Lao said a little cautiously.

“Ah...” Nodding his head, Xiao Yan said with a smile, “Since it’s like this, then I will go and prepare the rest of the items first before resting in the city for the night. We will enter the Tager Desert tomorrow morning.”

“Yes.” Yao Lao nodded his head and then became silent.

Gently patting his clothes with his hand, Xiao Yan smiled, lifted his legs and headed for the medicinal shop a short distance away. The gains that he had obtained today had far exceeded his expectations. Not only had he found a fragmented map piece, he even managed to obtain some information on a ‘Heavenly Flame’. This could not help but cause Xiao Yan’s heart to be excited.

Walking along the street for a distance, Xiao Yan turned into a medicinal shop. Within it, he bought some medicinal plants that repelled snakes. When he was purchasing the medicinal plants, he took care to observe the old man selling the medicine in great detail to the point of making the old man feel a little uneasy. Only then did Xiao Yan embarrassingly pick up his things and leave the medicinal shop. It appeared that after the event just now, Xiao Yan’s mind was a little over sensitive. He really thought that strong people who lived in isolation like Hai Bodong, were all over the

streets...

After preparing the medicinal ingredients needed to repel snakes, Xiao Yan subsequently bought enough water to fill his storage ring at a shop selling clean water before he was satisfied with his preparations and decided to head for a high class inn that a passerby had pointed to: a place where he would stay the night.

As the dark night slowly passed by, the hot sun once again covered the desert in a great heat.

Walking out of the inn, Xiao Yan stretched his lazy waist. He then gently tapped on the storage ring on his finger. In there were fifty 'Energy Recovery Pills' that Yao Lao had spent the night rushing to refine. These things were essential for him to train in the desert.

Standing on the street near the city's entrance, Xiao Yan once again checked to see if he had all the things he needed. Only after that did he place the Black Xuan Ruler on his back – which was almost as tall him – took a deep breath and began his journey through the desert.

"This time around, I must find a 'Heavenly Flame'."

Under the gazes of the foot soldiers guarding the city that were filled with reverence, Xiao Yan walked out of the city. He eyed the endless golden colored desert that appeared in his sight while silently steeling his heart.

Chapter 182: Tough Training in the Desert

In the vast desert, a sandstorm raged. A young man wearing the long robes of an alchemist was slowly advancing through the sandstorm. The deep footprints left in the yellow sand behind him were covered by the sandstorm in a moment, burying all traces of his passage.

The environment within the Tager Desert was more harsh than what Xiao Yan had expected. Under the exposure of the hot sun, the yellow sand under his feet was like scalding, small metal pieces, causing Xiao Yan to involuntarily twitch his mouth each time his feet stepped on it.

As Xiao Yan slowly walked, the wind blowing toward his face carried fine grains of sand that smashed against his face, causing Xiao Yan to feel a slight stinging sensation. The pain caused Xiao Yan to circulate his Dou Qi all the time, forming a faint Dou Qi mask over his face in order to prevent the possibility of the sandstorm disfiguring him.

Despite the desert environment being extremely harsh, the fire type energy that it contained made Xiao Yan a lot more pleased. It was perhaps due to the exposure of the sun that resulted in this place having a much richer fire type energy than the Magic Beast Mountain Range. Moreover, the fire type energy was also much more potent and pure, which was extremely suitable for Xiao Yan to use to train his Purple Flame Dou Qi.

After entering the vast desert for only half a day, Xiao Yan could clearly feel that the Purple Flame Dou Qi flowing in his body was obviously much more active and joyous compared to before.

Xiao Yan slowly walked another few hundred meters. He wiped away the perspiration on his forehead and licked his somewhat dry lips. Retrieving a bottle of water from his storage ring, he viciously took a few gulps before sighing. Xiao Yan then took out the goatskin map and bitterly smiled, "Teacher, during this half a day, we did not follow the route on the map. Since we did that, it could be considered that we have avoided the main road on here. Where do we go next?"

"Ah... then we will first head towards the eastern flame symbol." Yao Lao

randomly said.

Hearing this, Xiao Yan held the map and studied it for a while. He pressed his eyebrows together and sighed, “Looking at the map scale indicator, it looks like we will need to journey for at least ten more days if we want to get to the region indicated by the eastern flame symbol...”

“Hee hee, then let’s go... In this desert, even walking can be considered a form of training!” Seeing Xiao Yan’s bitter face, Yao Lao laughed in a gloating manner.

Sighing once again, Xiao Yan stared at the huge sun in the desert sky. He opened and closed his mouth before returning the map to his storage ring. Touching the Heavy Xuan Ruler on his back with his hand, he could not help but smile with joy. It was strange. Although this Heavy Xuan Ruler was extremely big, it still remained cool even under the extensive exposure to the hot sun. It was as though the sun in the sky did not have much impact on it. In this way, Xiao Yan did not need to think too much. After all, if someone told him to carry a red hot searing piece of metal and walk about, he would definitely not do such a foolish thing...

Once again Xiao Yan wiped his perspiration off. He was just about to turn his body toward the eastern side of the desert when his face changed. His palm grabbed the heavy ruler, drew it, and viciously stabbed it into the yellow sand under him.

“Hiss!” A loud shrill immediately rang out from where his heavy ruler was inserted into the ground. Xiao Yan was expressionless as he pulled out the heavy ruler. A pool of bright red blood began to seep up to the surface of the yellow sand, staining it red. As Xiao Yan waved his sleeve gently, a force lifted a small sized Magic Beast from under the yellow sand.

Xiao Yan glanced indifferently at this Magic Beast which had lost its life force. This kind of Magic Beast was known as the Yellow Sand Magic Scorpion and could only be encountered in the desert. These things frequently hid themselves within the yellow sand, awaiting someone to voluntarily step on them and then they would release a poison liquid that would numb or even kill the target. The Magic Scorpions were also

extremely good at hiding. Even some humans who spent most of their time in the desert would occasionally fall into their traps. Thus, this Magic Beast which was not even rank one was frequently regarded by people as one of the hardest living creatures to deal with in the desert.

Regardless of how good the Magic Scorpions were at hiding, they shone as bright as fireflies in the dark night under Xiao Yan's exceptional Spiritual Perception. If one wanted to launch a sneak attack... it was basically impossible.

Xiao Yan's gaze swept across the Magic Scorpion. He then took two steps forward and cut off its poison stinger which he then stored in his storage ring. After which, he stood up and took somewhat heavy footsteps as he began to slowly walk toward the eastern side of the desert.

The dullness and the harshness of training in the desert once again exceeded Xiao Yan's expectations. Back when he was training in the Magic Beast Mountain Range, he did not feel overtly lonely. However, in this vast desert, all that was in his sight were a few sandstorms raging. Forget about people, even the shadow of a Magic Beast was something that was hard to find. This kind of desolate and lonely feeling was a little difficult to bear.

The second day after Xiao Yan stepped into the Tager Desert was also the official start of his training. Under Yao Lao's instruction, Xiao Yan only wore knee length shorts on his body while his upper body was simply naked.

Regarding this image of his, Xiao Yan had thought of protesting but this was directly rejected by Yao Lao. The latter's reasoning was that only by letting the naked skin be exposed to the sun could his body effectively absorb the fire type energy contained within the air.

.....

On the endless gold colored desert, a figure wearing shorts with a naked back was clenching his teeth as he laid on the hot yellow sand. Beside him, a somewhat blurry old man was smiling while holding a small jade bottle that was filled with a red colored liquid. The mouth of the bottle was slowly tilted as a few drops of red colored liquid were poured on the back

of the young man whose skin had turned a little brown from the sun.

“Hiss...” As the red liquid dropped onto Xiao Yan’s back, he tightly clenched his teeth as he released a thread of cool air. His pair of hands tightly grabbed some yellow sand, not caring if the sand was hot.

“Applying this ‘Burning Blood’ in the desert has a much greater effect compared to being in the Magic Beast Mountain Range. Although this thing’s a little hard to prepare, its effect is indeed quite good. In the desert, it can cause the skin to be even more sensitive to the fire type energy in the air outside. When you train, it has the ability to get a more benefits for less effort.” Gently scraping the red colored liquid with a piece of jade, Yao Lao watched the young man who was tightly clenching his teeth and enduring it. An apologetic smile flashed in his eyes as he softly explained.

Xiao Yan opened his mouth and grinned but his smile was extremely ugly. He muttered with a smile, “It’s alright. Just do it. Anyway, I am becoming used to it these days. I don’t have many good points but I am extremely adaptable. Hee hee, my life is even tougher than a cockroach’s life.”

“But these few days of training has had quite a good effect. I can already feel that the Dou Qi in my body is advancing toward the peak of a one star Dou Shi.” Wiping his palm on the yellow sand, Xiao Yan said excitedly.

“Haha.” Nodding his head with a smile, Yao Lao said in a soft and even voice, “Alright. Enter your training mode. Now is the most appropriate time to train. Don’t waste these conditions...”

Hearing this, Xiao Yan hurriedly nodded his head. He stopped talking nonsense as he continued to lay with his back to the sun and his front stuck to the searing hot yellow sand. A Dou Qi mask covered his face and like an ostrich, he buried his head into a hot pile of sand.

Xiao Yan’s current strange training position was something Yao Lao had specially instructed. The reason for it was because despite the rich fire type energy being present everywhere, the fire type energy in the yellow sand, which had saturated after being exposed to the sun for an entire day, was much purer. This was how Xiao Yan ended up with this strange

ostrich training position...

After burying his head into the yellow sand, Xiao Yan's senses gradually became still. The surrounding sound of the raging sandstorms were also annihilated. His mind gradually entered into his body. Under the observation from his mind's eye, Xiao Yan could see that under exposure to the hot sun, the 'Burning Blood' liquid which was applied on his back, was swiftly invading his body. Although the searing pain during this time caused his skin to involuntarily convulse, the pure fire type energy continued to give Xiao Yan a pleased feeling as he looked for joy in his sorrow.

With the stimulation of the 'Burning Blood' on Xiao Yan's skin, the already rich fire type energy in his surroundings seemed to have found a container as it continued to pour into Xiao Yan's body. After being promoted to a Dou Shi, Xiao Yan could already appropriately arrange these energies pouring into his body without spending too much effort.

Xiao Yan controlled this fire type energy through a few Qi Paths and then poured it into the purple colored vortex in his lower abdomen after being refined.

The training was slowly conducted under this harsh and lonely manner. When the 'Burning Blood' on Xiao Yan's back was finally dispersed, a small drop of purple colored liquid finally congratulated within the vortex.

The small purple colored liquid flowed happily within the vortex, much like a small fish in a lake, agile and active.

Xiao Yan's mind observed the newest small drop of purple colored liquid as he smiled. After this period of observation, he had faintly calculated that when the vortex had reached fifteen small drops of liquid, he would achieve the strength needed to be promoted to be a two star Dou Shi. Currently, there were already thirteen small drops of purple colored liquid within the vortex. In other words, once two other small drops of purple colored liquid were congregated, Xiao Yan should be able to be promoted into a two star Dou Shi!

"Soon..." Xiao Yan silently whispered in his heart. His head looked up

abruptly as he ruthlessly shook the yellow sand from his head. After which, he jumped from from the sand's surface, faced the sky and shouted, "Soon! Two star Dou Shi!"

Standing on one side, Yao Lao watched Xiao Yan loudly shouting, venting the feelings in his heart. He smiled slightly and muttered softly, "Boy, although your training talent is quite good, your effort is most crucial to success... I really await the Three Year Agreement in a few months time. Back then, she gave you a humiliation that was difficult to erase. Now, you are already qualified to recover it..."

Slowly raising his head, Yao Lao watched the enormous sun. After which he tilted his head and watched the young man's back which was as thin as a stick. He suddenly smiled faintly.

"Although this training is very tough, you have not given up. All of these successes were exchanged with your effort and sweat. I believe that in the future you will be able to stand at the peak of the Dou Qi continent!"

Chapter 183: Coincidental Meeting

The golden colored sand was the main tune within this vast desert. Violent winds carried the sand, engulfing the space between the land and the sky while howling unceasingly.

On a sand dune, Xiao Yan who was naked above the waist, frowned tightly as he looked at the map in his hand. It had been over ten days since he had entered the Tager Desert. After over ten days of walking, Xiao Yan had finally approached the region marked by the flame symbol on the map. However, since he had entered this region yesterday, Xiao Yan was unable to find any traces of a 'Heavenly Flame' despite having searched for an entire day.

"Why is there nothing? Don't tell me that we were misled by that old man?" Xiao Yan frowned and said as he waved the goatskin map in his hand and lifted his head to face Yao Lao who was floating in midair.

"This... I'm not sure. The surrounding landscape is not much different from other places. I am also unable to feel any spot with unusual movement" Yao Lao slowly descended and helplessly said.

"If there isn't anything wrong with the map... it is very likely that this place does not have any traces of a 'Heavenly Flame'..." Xiao Yan shook his head and sighed.

"Maybe."

"Ugh... dammit. I've wasted the ten days walking." Violently waving the goatskin map, Xiao Yan scolded dispiritedly.

"Ke ke, it cannot be considered wasting time. At the very least, you have gradually reached the peak of a one star Dou Shi during these ten plus days of training. As long as you persevere and train for a period of time, breaking through to a two star Dou Shi should be something that will naturally occur." Yao Lao comforted. Hearing this, Xiao Yan still rubbed his lips together while feeling dissatisfied. His finger pointed at the flame symbol on the map and moaned deeply, "Let's search for a little more. After all, this symbol is so big. The region it envelopes is not small. We are

also unfamiliar with the surroundings. Naturally, we will need to spend more time searching. Otherwise, if we miss it... we'll regret it until death."

"Yes, this region is indeed not small. That old guy is really lazy... Ugh. Then we'll search for two more days. After two days, we will change our destination and head north... Walking between these two areas would at least require a month's time before reaching it." Yao Lao glanced at the flame symbol, frowned slightly and nodded.

Xiao Yan smiled bitterly and sighed once again. His palm habitually touched the huge Heavy Xuan Ruler on his back before lifting his leg and headed toward the sea of sand that enveloped his sight.

Enduring the hot sun, Xiao Yan once again walked for nearly half an hour while perspiring profusely. Just when he intended to stop for a rest, his eyebrow suddenly rose. Tilting his head to the side, he stared at the sand dune a short distance away. There, a human figure was fleeing in a terrible state. As the figure was descending from the sand dune, a moment of carelessness caused him or her to roll down the sand dune.

Xiao Yan pressed his eyebrows slightly together as he watched the human figure roll all the way down until he reached a spot a short distance from Xiao Yan. Helplessly shaking his head, Xiao Yan walked forward, took out a pouch of water and poured it on the face of the man.

Under the stimulation from the water source, the man who had felled unconscious gradually opened his eyes. He stared at Xiao Yan who had appeared in front of him and was initially alarmed. When he noticed that Xiao Yan did not have any ill intentions, he sighed in relief.

Indifferently glancing at the man, Xiao Yan randomly took out two to three bottles of clean water from his storage ring. He then threw them beside the man, turned around and left.

At the bottom of Xiao Yan's heart, he had never thought himself as a good person who had a heart of gold. Giving some water to an injured stranger in the desert was his greatest bottomline. If someone wanted him to protect and escort them out of the desert, then he could only say sorry...

"Brother..." Seeing that Xiao Yan had turned around and walked away

decisively, the man was a little startled. Immediately, he hurriedly said in a hoarse voice, “Little brother, please wait. Our mercenary company was attacked by Snake-People. Now they are in a life threatening situation. Can you go to the Rock Desert City to help call for reinforcements!”

“Sorry. I don’t have the time.”

Without turning around, Xiao Yan waved his hand and said indifferently. He could not be blamed for being indifferent. There were countless people dying in the world everyday. Can all of them ask him to help them bring reinforcements? Since they were working as mercenaries in the Tager Desert, it was only natural for them to be prepared to face such a fate.

“Little Brother!”

Seeing that Xiao Yan was gradually walking further away, the man clenched his teeth and wiggled his body, using all his strength to shout, “Little Brother, please help. If the team can be saved, we, the Desert Metal Mercenary Company will definitely reward you heftily.”

After the man shouted, the young man in the distance who was about to disappear into a sandstorm suddenly paused. An instant later, he turned around and walked back, arriving by the man’s side under the latter’s gaze which was filled with unrestrained joy.

“Desert Metal Mercenary Troop? The Rock Desert City’s Desert Metal Mercenary Troop?” Xiao Yan blinked his dark black eyes as some surprise appeared in them. So coincidental?

“Yes... has Little Brother heard of our Mercenary Company?” Seeing the situation, the man could not tell whether Xiao Yan had ill or good intentions to the Desert Metal Mercenary Troop. However, under such circumstances, he could only brace himself and reply.

“The name of your company leader...?”

“Xiao Ding... Xiao Li...” The man licked his dry lips and carefully answered.

“Oh...” Nodding his head slightly, the smile on Xiao Yan’s face grew much gentler. He squatted down and moved the man’s leg with his finger

to take a look at the wound. After which, Xiao Yan handed him a medicinal pill, "Eat this, this will remove the snake's poison."

"Thank you, Little Brother." The man gratefully said as he hurriedly took the medicinal pill and swallowed it.

"This is a healing medicine. Apply some by yourself and there should not be too much of an issue. Once you apply the medicine, bring me to where your small mercenary team is." Xiao Yan took out a small bottle of healing medicine from his storage ring and threw it to the man. After which, he stood up, patted his hands and smiled.

"Uh? Go where?" Hearing Xiao Yan's words, the man was startled. He hurriedly said, "Little Brother, that won't do. There are eight Snake-People attacking our small team. among them, there are three nine star Dou Zhes!"

"Little Brother, you should just hurry to Rock Desert City to help us pass a message to the mercenary company. The Company Leader and the others will hurry over. The distance isn't that far." The man bitterly persuaded.

"Stop talking nonsense. Hurry up and apply the medicine and lead the way. I naturally have the confidence if I am doing this. Otherwise by the time reinforcements come, those people of yours would all have been killed." Kicking gently on the man's thigh, Xiao Yan rolled his eyes and hurried him.

Hearing Xiao Yan's words, the man half believably observed the young man in front of him with a naked upper body, shorts and a strange ruler... all of these put together caused the man to be unable to tell just what kind of strength the young man possessed.

Letting out a bitter laugh, the man applied the healing medicine on his thigh before he stood up while trembling. His finger pointed toward the sand dune and said, "It's that way, a short distance away."

Glancing at the sand dune, Xiao Yan nodded his head slight. He grabbed the man's arm and abruptly stepped on the sand's surface. Following a muffled sound of explosion, a huge sand pit on the sand's surface was

formed from the shock. Borrowing the reverse push force, Xiao Yan and that man's figure were suddenly shot up the sand dune.

On the sand dune, Xiao Yan swept past a great distance in a lightning like manner with each step. Finally, he stopped on a towering sand surface. He threw the shocked man in his hand onto the ground and took a step forward, looking at the huge group of people that had appeared at the lower part of the desert.

On the lower part of the desert, ten mercenaries carrying weapons in their hands had their backs facing each other. Around them were eight creatures with strange appearances surrounding them. These creatures had a human head and body but at the area where the legs were supposed to be, they had a huge snake tail. As the snake tail swung about, it released a 'chi chi' sound that caused people to feel a chill.

"Are these the Snake-People of the Tager Desert?" Xiao Yan sighed as his gaze swept across these eight male Snake-People, feeling that it was an eye-opener. This was the first time he had seen this kind of living creature.

"Little Brother... sir, they are a small team from our Desert Metal Mercenary Company. Originally, we had intended to hunt for Magic Beasts but we did not expect to be ambushed by these guys..." The man's gaze respectfully swept across Xiao Yan's back. The speed Xiao Yan had just displayed had already let this man know that the young man in front of him who appeared fairly young was a strong person who hid his strength.

"Ah." Nodding his head, Xiao Yan's gaze once again swept across the ten mercenaries. There were eight men and two women in the group of ten. His gaze drifted among them and finally landed on a gentle and beautiful lady's figure.

This lady was around twenty years old. Her pretty face was exquisite but the somewhat raised faint eyebrows of hers faintly carried an untamed feeling like a small female leopard in the desert. Looking at her disposition, it could be pictured that this flower in the desert may be beautiful but its body was covered in long thorns.

The clothes the lady wore were bold and sexy. She wore a shirt that merely covered her chest area and some skin under it, leaving her sexy and pretty narrow waist exposed to everyone's sight. Below her short skin skirt, her sexy long legs were revealed. Xiao Yan, who was standing above could see that there were a number of obscene gazes among the snake-people which repeatedly swept across the pretty narrow waist and the tightly wrapped thighs.

"Kill them, leave the women!"

The triangle pupils of the leader of the group of snake-people swept over the lady's body. His voice was both cold and husky and carried a little obscenity. The nature of a snake was licentious and they naturally yearned for women.

Hearing the order from their leader, the faces of the surrounding few snake-people were immediately swarmed with bloodthirstiness. They opened their mouths and let out their scarlet red snake tongue.

"Everyone, be careful. Dan Zi had already returned to get help. As long as we can endure for a while, we will be saved!" Seeing the Snake-People's action, that sexy lady pressed her sleek red lips together and called out in a cool voice.

Hearing this, the surrounding mercenaries were slightly inspired. However, the hands which were tightly gripping their weapons were still filled with perspiration. The highest level among them was merely around a seven star Dou Zhe while the other party had a few nine star Dou Zhe. With this kind of difference... they did not know if they could endure until the reinforcements arrived,

"Kill!" The leader of the Snake-People coldly laughed and waved his hand. The surrounding Snake-People who had been eyeing the group menacingly immediately charged at the mercenaries with sinister faces, intending to kill.

"Xiu!"

Just as the Snake-People were beginning to attack, a sharp sound of wind breaking suddenly sounded in the air. A black shadow abruptly flew across

the skyline. Finally, like a black colored lightning bolt it heavily landed in the space between the mercenaries and the Snake-People with a loud bang.

The yellow sand gradually dispersed and the thin back of a person carrying a huge black ruler slowly appeared in everyone's sight.

Chapter 184: First Meeting With the Snake-People, Initial Show of a Dou Shi's Power

The sudden appearance of a young man with a naked upper body caused both sides to be a little stunned. A moment later, however, the side with the mercenaries gradually became calm. Since the one who arrived was a human, they believed that he would at the very least not help the Snake-People.

The group of Snake-People, upon seeing Xiao Yan, this uninvited guest, became furious. The triangle-shaped pupils of the Snake-People's leader coldly swept toward Xiao Yan. Without saying anything he waved his hand and two five star Dou Zhe Snake-People swung their tails and charged at Xiao Yan with fierce expressions.

Lifting his eyes, Xiao Yan gently sniffed the faint fishy wind that was blowing toward him. He frowned slightly, then slowly grabbed the hilt of the Heavy Xuan Ruler. After raising his leg gently, he abruptly stomped down and his body suddenly went from being static to moving rapidly. Under everyone's gazes, a human figure swiftly interlocked with and then passed by the two Snake-People like lightning.

"Bang, bang!"

Just after the figures crossed each other, Xiao Yan's body suddenly paused. The two Snake-People with fierce expressions were dragged along the sand's surface as they shot backwards, seemingly having received a heavy blow. As they were thrown backwards, a mouthful of fresh blood was violently vomited out from each of them.

The palm of Xiao Yan tightly holding the hilt of the Heavy Xuan Ruler relaxed slightly as Xiao Yan licked his lips and moved his gaze to the two Snake-People, who were sent flying for dozens of meters by the heavy ruler. Having received such a heavy blow, even if they did not die, they would end up seriously injured.

“Hiss...”

From the time Xiao Yan and the the Snake-People crossed each other till the time the Snake-People vomited blood and retreated, only a short ten seconds had passed. However, in these ten seconds, the victor was determined.

Watching Xiao Yan with his thunderbolt-like attack, the ten mercenaries had their mouths wide open. Their faces were filled with astonishment as they stared at the young man’s back with stunned eyes. It was difficult for them to imagine how this thin frame managed to hide this kind of terrifying strength within it.

“This guy... how violent.” Opening her red mouth as she stared at Xiao Yan, who had sent the two Snake-People flying as though he was wrecking houseflies, that sexy lady involuntarily muttered.

“Hee, Xue Lan, are you alright?” On the sand dune, the man’s face was filled with excitement as he dragged his wounded leg and carefully walked around the few snake-people before coming to the Mercenary Troop and smiling at the lady.

“Dan Zi... didn’t you return to Rock Desert City to get us reinforcements? Why are you still here?” Seeing the man, the sexy lady called Xue Lan straightened her eyebrows and scolded.

Being scolded by the lady, Dan Zi could only let out a bitter laugh. He pointed to Xiao Yan’s back and said, “Yes, isn’t this reinforcement?”

“Him?” Hearing this, Xue Lan momentarily stilled. Her gaze returned to Xiao Yan, frowned and cautiously said, “He doesn’t appear to be a member of our Desert Metal Mercenary Company. How did you manage to get him to help? What condition did he ask for?”

“I don’t know him either. I met him just now when I fell. Originally, I wanted to ask him to go to Rock Desert City to send a message...” Having said to this point, Dan Zi’s face appeared a little embarrassed. “At first, he ignored me. But when I said that I am a member of the Desert Metal Mercenary Company, he suddenly became warm. He even gave me an antidote and healing medicine...”

“Does he have some relationship with our Desert Metal Mercenary Company?” Xue Lan’s narrow hand gently swept the black hair on her forehead that had been contaminated by her sweat. Her unintentional loveliness caused the obscene glint in the eyes of one of the Snake-People close by to rise.

“But I have never heard our Company Leader mentioning that they knew such a strong person of such a young age. Looking at the strength of his earlier attack, he should at least be an eight star Dou Zhe or stronger.” Xue Lan knitted her eyebrows together and said suspiciously.

“I don’t know either.” Dan Zi smiled bitterly, shook his head and said, “But I don’t think he has any ill intentions. Otherwise, why would he take the risk to come and save us?”

“Ugh... but whether he can save us remains a question. Among this group of Snake-People, there are three nine star Dou Zhes. At the end, he might fail to save us and end up losing his life too.” Xue Lan shook her head and said in a worried voice.

Hearing this, Dan Zi stilled for a moment before laughing awkwardly, “I think... he should be able to handle it. After all, I had told him of the strength of the Snake-People. If he did not have the confidence, why would he come?”

“Do you want to tell me that that he is a Dou Shi?” Xue Lan shook her slightly curled black hair and helplessly said.

“This...” Dan Zi opened and closed his mouth but said nothing. Although he looked highly upon Xiao Yan’s strength but a Dou Shi... Xiao Yan’s age was his sore spot. Becoming a Dou Shi before a person was twenty? How was this possible?

“Ugh. Hopefully he has some hidden cards...” Dan Zi bitterly smiled and shook his head. He could only comfort himself in this manner.

Xue Lan frowned as she mused for a while. She could only listlessly shake her head. With the current situation, she could only pray that the young man in front of her could display an unexpected performance.

Seeing that Xiao Yan had easily wounded two of his subordinates, the triangle eyes of the snake leader shrank slightly. His scarlet snake tongue gently extended and shrunk before he said in a thick voice, "Human, offending us Snake-People in the Tager Desert is not a wise choice!"

Xiao Yan smiled faintly, tilted his heavy ruler and did not respond.

"If you know what's good for you, I advise you to leave now. I can forget about the wrong you did by harming my subordinates!" The eyes of the leader of the group of Snake-People were filled with coldness, His words, however, carried fear and a faint malice. Clearly, Xiao Yan's attack a moment ago caused him to not dare to underestimate Xiao Yan.

"Sorry..." Xiao Yan smiled and shook his head. The simple word held a tone that bore no room for negotiation.

"You seek death!" Being rejected by Xiao Yan, bloodlust surfaced on the extremely small snake scale on the Snake-People leader's face. He waved his hand and coldly said, "Attack together. Kill him! Catch the women and bring them back to enjoy!"

"Hiss!" Hearing their leader's order, the surrounding Snake-People hesitated briefly before extending their snake tongues; they held their sharp snake spears and charged at Xiao Yan together.

"The wounded, stay and wait for orders. The others, follow me and attack!" Seeing that the Snake-People intended to attack together, Xue Lan, who was behind, straightened her eyebrows vertically, waved her delicate hand and coldly ordered.

"There's no need. All of you wait there or you might get in the way." Hearing the commotion from behind, Xiao Yan frowned. He helplessly tilted his head and blandly said.

"You..." Hearing this, Xue Lan, who had just drew her weapon and charged forward immediately paused. Her eyebrows were vertical. This was the first time she was looked down upon to such an extent. She was just about to scold when she suddenly remembered the person in front was their only reinforcement. Instantly, she could only stomp her feet angrily. After which, she angrily stared at Xiao Yan, hugged her hands on

her full chest and took a step back. She coldly eyed Xiao Yan and mumbled in her heart, "Acting strong at such a young age."

However, the cold stare Xue Lan gave did not last for very long before it was slowly overcome by shock. Of course, the other mercenaries behind her also expressed shock for the same reason.

A short distance away from them, the young man stood still while carrying a heavy ruler. He mused for a moment before a faint purple colored Dou Qi cloak gradually covered his entire body. On the outside of this Dou Qi cloak, were purple colored flames lingering and occasionally soared upwards, appearing very mysterious.

"Hiss..." Seeing the purple colored energy cloak on the young man's body, everyone present took in a quick cool breath.

"This... Dou Qi cloak? He really is a Dou Shi?" Widening her pretty eyes, Xue Lan stared at the back of the figure in front of her that was wrapped within a purple colored Dou Qi. Her face was filled with disbelief.

"..." Everyone was speechless as they faced one another.

"What an abnormal person... to actually be promoted to a Dou Shi at such a young age. It should be known that the two company leaders are only five star Dou Shis." Dan Zi opened his mouth wide as he muttered dully with an expression as though he had seen a ghost.

"No wonder he dared to rush over by himself... he was actually a Dou Shi." One of the mercenaries let out a sigh and bitterly laughed. His voice carried envy to Xiao Yan and joy from having escaped a close encounter with death.

"Where did this guy appear from? I have never heard of such an abnormal young man appearing in any of the cities nearby." Xue Lan frowned as she whispered.

"No idea..." Regarding this question, the surrounding people similarly shook their heads.

Seeing the situation, Xue Lan also helplessly smiled. With a bitter smile, she said, "Forget it. Regardless of where he came from, we appear to be

lucky to be saved.”

When Xiao Yan summoned the Dou Qi cloak, the Snake-People who were charging over were clearly thrown into a mess. It appeared that they also understood very well what being able to summon a Dou Qi cloak represented.

Dou Shi! That was an entirely different class from a Dou Zhe. If one did not possess some ridiculously powerful Dou Technique as one’s trump card, it was basically impossible to win a challenge across the classes. As for abnormally strong Dou Techniques and Qi Methods...would one expect these Snake-People who did not appear to live very well to have them?

Thus, this would be a completely one-sided battle!

After summoning the Dou Qi cloak, Xiao Yan gently let out his breath. He tightly gripped the Heavy Xuan Ruler and faced the Snake-People who had begun to panic. The corner of his mouth curled into a cold smile as his feet stomped onto the ground. Following an explosive sound, Xiao Yan’s body was stuck to the sand’s surface as he shot out.

“Bang!” Xiao Yan appeared in front of a nine star Dou Zhe Snake-Person. With cold eyes, he raised the heavy ruler that carried a ferocious force as he violently smashed it on the other party’s chest. Instantly, a soft muffled noise sounded. The snake-person’s eyes shrunk as he violently threw out a mouthful of fresh blood from his damaged internal organs. At the same time, his body shot backwards like a cannon ball and crashed into a sand dune.

In an instant, a nine star Dou Zhe received a fatal blow from Xiao Yan without even having the time to use his Dou Techniques. From this, it could be seen just how much simpler it was for Xiao Yan now to handle a Dou Zhe.

Having killed a nine star Dou Zhe in the blink of an eye, Xiao Yan’s body abruptly turned and once again appeared in the middle of a few Snake-People whose strength were around four to five star Dou Zhes. The heavy ruler that he carried had become like a racket, beating the few Snake-People who were attempting to flee till they were sent flying as they

vomited blood.

Seeing that the Xiao Yan's "solo", Xue Lan and the mercenaries could only stare with stunned faces. Even if Xiao Yan was a Dou Shi, it should not have been possible for him to kill the other party so easily. Regardless of how you put it, the other side had three nine star Dou Zhe. However, in this short encounter... they had already lost one nine star Dou Zhe and a few other ordinary Snake-People, this...

Exchanging glances with totally stunned faces, everyone could only sigh and shake their head. The strength of this guy appeared to be much stronger than an ordinary Dou Shi.

Seeing that in just a few short exchanges, his side had suffered serious losses, a bloodthirsty sinisterness surfaced in the eyes of the leader of the Snake-People. He exchanged a glance with the other nine star Dou Zhe Snake-Person. Fierce expressions appeared on their faces as they tightly held the sharp snake spear, swung their snake tail on the sand's surface and formed an crisscrossed as they charged angrily at Xiao Yan.

Seeing the pair's familiar coordination, it was obvious that this had been obtained from a long period of training. The two snake spears extended and withdrew strangely and at the tip of the snake spears, a faint crimson color appeared and disappeared. It was clear that poison was applied to the spear.

After sending the last snake-person flying with the heavy ruler, Xiao Yan felt the dense cold forces rushing at him from his back. He shifted his heavy ruler to his back and blocked the two tricky stabs from the snake spears with a 'clang' sound.

"Puff!" Seeing that their attacks were blocked, the two snake people abruptly opened their mouths in unison without prior agreement. Two smelly quiet green vapors swiftly shot toward Xiao Yan.

"Be careful of the snake poison!" Seeing the actions of the two snake-people, Xue Lan's pretty face changed slightly as she hurriedly shouted.

As Xue Lan's voice died down, the Dou Qi cloak outside Xiao Yan's body surged quickly and covered all of Xiao Yan's body within it. Any green

colored poison gas that came into contact with the Purple Flame Cloak was burnt into nothingness and gradually disappeared in the air.

Resisting the poison gas attack with an indifferent expression, Xiao Yan feet suddenly stomped and in an instant, his body appeared in front of the leader of the Snake-People present. His heavy ruler was swiftly raised and then violently hacked onto the leader's head.

The Snake-People leader's expression changed drastically when Xiao Yan passed through the poison attack and came close to him. At the point of crisis, his snake tail suddenly swerved about strangely. Following a strange 'Sho sho' sound, his body slithered like a snake as he retreated for tens of meters, narrowly dodging Xiao Yan's fatal blow.

After evading Xiao Yan's attack, the leader of the group of Snake-People still felt insecure. His snake's tail swiftly swung around and his body quickly retreated.

However, he had only maintained this for a few seconds when an unusual ferocious suction force surged out of Xiao Yan's palm a short distance away. Instantly, the unprepared leader of the group of Snake-People was sucked and flew toward Xiao Yan.

Lifting his head to watch the Snake-People leader flying at him with a horrified face, Xiao Yan let out a cold smile. He once again violently stepped on the ground. Like a huge fabulous bird, his body swiftly climbed above the snake-person's head. Then, the heavy ruler in his hand suddenly smashed downwards.

"Bang!" Fresh blood accompanied by brains rained down from the sky to the ground. A body swiftly descended, finally smashing into the yellow sand. A moment later, the pit formed in the yellow sand slowly disappeared under the flow of the sand.

Seeing that the leader had died, fear appeared on the face of last nine star Dou Zhe Snake-Person. He let out a few sharp neighing cries, swung his snake tail and swiftly fled toward the inner regions of the desert. After having finished off the Snake-People leader, Xiao Yan's body rotated in midair. Borrowing the force from the rotation, the Heavy Xuan Ruler

abruptly left his hand and shot toward the Snake-Person fleeing.

“Pu Chi...” The heavy rule sped through the air like lightning and swiftly chased after the snake-person. Finally, it shot through his neck and was accompanied by bright red blood as flew into the yellow sand, leaving only the hilt outside.

Xiao Yan’s feet landed heavily on the sand’s surface and sunk half a foot deep into the sand as he let out a breath gently. After which, he slowly walked toward the Heavy Xuan Ruler, grabbed the ruler’s hilt with his palm and pulled it out.

After wiping off the fresh blood on the ruler with gauze, Xiao Yan carelessly replaced it into the sheath on his back before slowly walking toward the ten plus mercenaries who were frozen in shock.

“Hey, are you alright?” When he had walked closer, Xiao Yan stood in front of the sexy lady and asked with a smile.

“We’re... we are alright.” Sweeping her gaze across the naked upper body of Xiao Yan, Xue Lan did not reveal any shy expressions due to this. In this desert, the women were much more open-minded. Moreover, she also frequently mingled within the mercenaries, so she did not have the shyness and reservations of those gentler ladies. Seeing the naked upper body of a man did not cause her pretty face to blush.

“You...” Xue Lan blinked her eyes before saying with a smile to Xiao Yan, “Regardless of your intention in helping us, I will have to say thank you. Otherwise, our fate... I’m Xue Lan, the leader of this small group. At the same time, we are a team of the Desert Metal Mercenary Company.”

“Xiao Yan” Xiao Yan said as he smiled and nodded.

“Xiao Yan? This name seems familiar. Where have I heard it?” Hearing the name, Xue Lan frowned slightly. She thought for awhile in her heart but did not manage to get anywhere. After helplessly shaking her head, she raised it and smiled toward Xiao Yan. “Where do you plan to go next? If you have the time, I would like to invite you to Rock Desert City. Our Desert Metal Mercenary Company clearly differentiates between those that help us and those who are our enemies. You have helped us. We will

definitely return this favor!"

"The Rock Desert City isn't far from here. It is only around half an hour journey away and will not delay too much of your time." Seemingly afraid that Xiao Yan would reject, Xue Lan hurriedly added.

Hearing this, Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. Since he had arrived at Tager Desert, he would naturally have to visit the two brothers of his that he had not seen for a long time. Although they had been busy with their careers in the last few years and had seldom gone home, the many years of brotherly relationships still caused Xiao Yan to have deep feelings for them. Within Xiao Yan, other than his father and Xun Er, the two brothers of his were the ones who gave him most care when he was young.

"I wonder how Xun Er that girl is doing... it's been one year ah." In his memory, a elegant young lady in green suddenly surfaced in Xiao Yan's heart without any warning. Her gentle frown and smile all caused Xiao Yan to quiver.

During the one year, the tough training took up most of Xiao Yan's time. Only now did his thoughts suddenly awaken and he got a taste of missing someone. He slowly let out a breath and raised his head. In the slightly distorted air, he saw a young lady's small hand on her back while her agile body caused Xiao Yan to have the sudden urge in his heart to immediately end his training and head to Jia Nan Academy...

Xiao Yan trembled as soon as he realized what he was thinking. Violently shaking his head, he suppressed it deep into his heart. That girl had far too many secrets. If he did not work hard to strengthen himself, he would likely die of feeling inferior in front of her.

After coming out and gaining experience for such a long time, Xiao Yan also understood just how precious a Xuan Class Qi Method was. It should be known that back then, Xun Er could carelessly take out a High Xuan class Qi Method. From this, Xiao Yan gained a better feel of how great and mysterious her identity and background was.

Moreover, Xiao Yan had personally experienced Xun Er's training speed. In this one year, he did not know to what level that girl might have leapt

to. It was possible that her level would be higher than his current level.

“Ugh, I wonder how her life is like at the Jia Nan Academy. But with that girl’s looks and demeanor... it was likely she would have many admirers. With Xun Er’s indifferent character... there should not have been any man who would interest her, no?” Rubbing his nose, Xiao Yan opened his mouth and gave a narcissistic smile. Each time he thought of this question, he would rejoice. He rejoiced that back then, he had accidentally and ridiculously caught the heart of this girl.

“But... it was a pity to see. Back when I was young, I was still trying to see if Dou Qi was really inside my body. At that age, how would I know anything about warming the Qi Paths... but why did I try for so many years? ... Don’t tell me that back then I already had ulterior motives toward Xun Er? How can it be...” Some extremely ridiculous questions suddenly appeared in his heart, causing Xiao Yan to be a little frustrated as he mumbled.

Xue Lan tilted her head and eyed Xiao Yan who had suddenly become silent beside her. At the same time, his face continued to change, causing her to feel a little stunned. A long while later, she finally took the chance and asked, “Hey? Are you alright? Have you been poisoned?”

“Ah? Oh... ke ke. Sorry, I was distracted. I’m fine.” Waking up from his memories, Xiao Yan first stilled. He watched the surrounding people who were staring at him and could not help but shake his head apologetically.

“If you are alright, why don’t we set off for Rock Desert City now? What do you say?” Xue Lan tilted her head and asked Xiao Yan.

“Haha, alright.” Xiao Yan smiled and nodded his head.

“Fei Gao, go pull out the camel carriage.” Seeing Xiao Yan nod his head, Xue Lan turned around, waved at one of the mercenaries and ordered.

“Okay.” One of the mercenaries smiled and nodded. After which, he swiftly went into a sand dune not far away and pulled out a camel carriage and brought it over. Xiao Yan realized that on the box at the back of the carriage, there were two tier one Magic Beast corpse. Seeing the fresh blood that had yet to thicken on the corpse, this should be the quarry of

Xue Lan and her small group. The size of this kind of desert carriage was not very big and thus the Magic Beast corpses left no room for people to ride in the carriage.

“You will first bring the thing back to Rock Desert City. Report what happened here to the Company Leaders.” Waving her hand to the mercenary driving the carriage, Xue Lan gave an order in a well practiced manner.

“Hee hee, alright. I believe that the Troop Leaders will be very happy to meet a new friend.” The mercenary gave Xiao Yan a friendly smile before kicking his feet on the camel’s backside. He swiftly headed to Rock Desert City with the quarry.

Seeing the carriage that was swiftly disappearing from sight, Xiao Yan gave a smile. He carelessly took out a garment from the storage ring put it on his body and led the way toward the direction the carriage headed in.

Noticing that Xiao Yan had moved, Xue Lan hurriedly hastened her subordinates.

“Group leader, do you have the feeling that Xiao Yan and the two Company Leaders... appear somewhat similar?” Staring at Xiao Yan’s back, Dan Zi suddenly said after packing their things.

“Uh?” Hearing this, Xue Lan stilled. Her gaze shifted to Xiao Yan’s back. A moment later, her heart suddenly moved violently. In a soft voice, she said, “I seem to recall the Company Leaders saying that they had a younger brother, right?”

“Uh... I also remember. It was that one whose strength had strangely continued to hover below that of a Dou Zhe?Hehe.”

“The company leader’s younger brother... seems... to also be called... Xiao Yan?” Xue Lan blinked her long eyelashes as her fragrant tongue licked her red lips. She recalled her memories of this company leader brother and a moment later, astonishment gradually covered her pretty face.

Chapter 185: Brothers

During the journey to Rock Desert City, Xue Lan had made some subtle inquiries in order to confirm Xiao Yan's identity but each time, she would be vaguely handled by Xiao Yan. Regarding this, she could only helplessly glare at him.

Although Xiao Yan did not admit it himself, after Xue Lan's careful and detailed observation of his appearance, a certainty appeared in her heart. The young male Dou Shi in front of her was definitely the strange younger brother Xiao Ding and Xiao Li had talked about, Xiao Yan!

After becoming certain of Xiao Yan's identity, the gaze Xue Lan gave Xiao Yan had a little less caution and more smiles and gentleness.

While they chatted along the way, the outline of the huge city that sat outside the eastern region of the Tager Desert also faintly appeared within the group's sight.

Seeing the Rock Desert City closeby, Xue Lan and the others heaved a long sigh. Even the smile on Xiao Yan's face widened. Having spent over ten days walking and enduring tough training in the desert, his spirit was also a little tired. Now that he had a place to rest, it was natural that he was a little excited.

Under the happy cheers of everyone, Xiao Yan and the rest of the group slowly arrived at the city's entrance and swarmed into it.

Compared to the cities in the inner regions of the empire, the cities in the desert were simpler and dignified. Perhaps it was because it was near the Tager Desert that the defenses here were much tighter than the cities in the inner regions of the empire. Within the city one could see fully armed soldiers patrolling all around.

After entering the city, Xiao Yan followed Xue Lan and her group as they headed toward the south. They passed through a few streets until a compound that was similar in size to the huge compound the Xiao Clan occupied in Wu Tan City appeared in their sight.

On the top of the compound, there was a flag that was swaying with the wind where the words 'Desert Metal Mercenary Company' were written in a big font. The drawing on the flag also faintly emitted the firm atmosphere of blood and guts.

At the entrance, a few fierce large men were carrying weapons in their hands and stood as still and straight as a pen. Their sharp gazes swept back and forth on the people walking past the compound. From the faint scent of blood that they emitted, it appeared that they were men of iron will that had really survived at the edge of a blade. Those novices who simply carried a weapon by their waist and thought they were mercenaries could not be compared to them.

"In this Rock Desert City, our Desert Metal Mercenary Company's strength could be ranked among the top three. Only the Sand Mercenary Company can surpass us. Their Company Leader is a Da Dou Shi, thus the position of the Sand Mercenary Company cannot be shaken. Other than the Sand Mercenary Company, only the Storm Mercenary Company can barely compare with us in the entire Rock Desert City." Walking toward the huge compound, Xue Lan smiled and explained to Xiao Yan by her side. Her smile contained a little pride.

Xiao Yan smiled and nodded his head; he was a little surprised in his heart. In just a few short years, his eldest brother and second brother had built quite a strong power in this foreign place. This was something he could not help but admire. At the very least, he knew in his heart that if it was up to him, he would not be able to achieve this kind of success. "Big brother has always been smarter than others. Even Father had always praised him. Second Brother is careful and vicious. He is always sly when doing things while his methods are ruthless. With them working together and adding their outstanding training talent, they are really a perfect pair. No wonder they would achieve such success..." Xiao Yan's mind recalled the praise his father had showered on his two older brothers and could not help but laugh in his heart.

"Xue Lan. Are you alright? The one who came back earlier said that you were ambushed by Snake-People?" When they arrived at the compound,

one of the large men at the entrance came forward and asked Xue Lan with a smile.

“We’re fine.” Carelessly waving her hand, Xue Lan smiled and inquired, “Are the two Company Leaders in?”

“Yes, they are both in.” The large man smiled and nodded. His gaze swept across Xiao Yan by the side and finally paused on his face. He could not help but laugh, “Ever since they knew about this little brother’s name, the two Company Leaders became so excited that they could not sit still... Haha, it is very rare to see the usually cool and steady Company Leaders be so happy that they forget themselves.”

Xiao Yan smiled slightly while a warmth flowed in his heart. He gave the large man a friendly nod before following Xue Lan who was covering her mouth and laughing to herself as she entered the courtyard.

Following behind Xue Lan, Xiao Yan passed through a few small paths. During the walk, they met quite a number of Desert Metal Mercenary Company members. When they met Xiao Yan, a shocked expression would surface on their faces and they would begin whispering among themselves.

“haha. The two Company Leaders frequently talk about you. It looks like the person who came back earlier has already publicized you.” Seeing the surrounding mercenaries’ expressions, Xue Lan tilted her head and sweetly said.

Xiao Yan smiled bitterly and nodded. It appeared that she had guessed his relationship with his two brothers.

After following Xue Lan and passing through another small path, a spacious hall appeared in front of them. Standing outside the hall, Xiao Yan could hear two familiar men’s voices being emitted from within. His face suddenly felt a little sour. They were different from Xiao Ning and the others in the clan. In this world, Xiao Ding and Xiao Li were his true brothers who were related to him by blood. Regardless of how calm Xiao Yan’s character was, blood was thicker than water. He could not help but become agitated and forget himself...

Taking in a deep breath, Xiao Yan smiled apologetically to Xue Lan by his side. After which, he slowly walked to the door. He was about to push it open and enter when the door was pulled open with a crunching sound.

When the door was pulled open, a face of a young man who appeared similar to Xiao Yan's suddenly appeared.

The young man was wearing a mercenary uniform; his tall figure was straight and strong. Those dark black eyes of his contained laziness and cold sternness. On his face, his smile was overflowing. However, under it hid a faint fierceness and viciousness. Clearly, this young man might appear good natured but he was the type of person who did not offend others when others did not offend him. If someone offended him, he was the fierce type who would strike back even if he was dying.

The young man who opened the door stared at the youth outside. He was surprised for a moment as his body hardened. The smile on his face that hid a viciousness suddenly disappeared. A brilliant and warm smile, that was rarely seen surfaced on the young man's face, appeared there now.

Watching the warm smile of the young man, the tip of Xiao Yan's nose turned a little red. His eyes could not help but become a little moist. Back when they were at the clan, even when he had turned into a 'cripple', the young man in front of Xiao Yan had continued to carefully protect Xiao Yan's remaining pride. He was like a vicious wolf who bit any clan members who dared mock Xiao Yan until they were badly injured. After doing so, he did not forget to smile and comfort Xiao Yan's desolated self while wearing the scars from being punished by the clan.

"Second Brother..." Wiping the tears from his eyes, Xiao Yan stared at the young man in front of him and shouted in a trembling voice.

"Hahahahaha... Xiao-Yan-Zi, you have really come. Ha ha." Seeing the youthful manner, the young man opened his mouth and laughed foolishly. After which, he took a step forwards and gave Xiao Yan a fierce hug. He heavily patted Xiao Yan's shoulders while his voice was filled with joy and agitation.

TL: Please note that Xiao-Yan-Zi is a nickname for Xiao Yan but the Xiao here means small while Xiao Yan's Xiao is like a name.

Xiao-Yan-Zi, the intimate form of address from when he was young, caused Xiao Yan to smile slightly. Without anyone noticing, he wiped the tears from his eyes and bitterly laughed, "Second Brother, do you want to pat me to death?"

"Little guy, not bad... has the strange problem in your body been solved?" Xiao Li smiled and released Xiao Yan. He patted the latter's shoulders and swept his gaze around Xiao Yan as he happily asked.

"Yes." Xiao Yan nodded his head.

"Go, let's go and take a look at Big Brother first. He has been waiting for quite a while." As he spoke, he grabbed Xiao Yan, turned around and rushed into the hall without having the time to greet Xue Lan by who was by Xiao Yan's side.

Entering the hall, Xiao Yan's gaze shifted to the young man seated on the leader's seat. He was wearing a white robe and was smiling as he watched Xiao Yan enter the room. His eyes which were brighter than ordinary people's carried a wisdom and slyness that was difficult to detect.

"Xiao-Yan-Zi, I haven't seen you in a few years. You have really grown up." The white dressed young man gradually stood up and stared at the youth whose height was comparable to Xiao Li. There was a doting and gentle feeling in his eyes as he smiled.

"Big Brother." Xiao Yan took in a deep breath. He suppressed the waves in his heart. The expression on his face was gradually becoming as calm as the white dressed young man. He smiled and said, "Big Brother is also becoming more and more handsome."

Seeing that Xiao Yan could easily suppress the emotion in his heart, a look of surprise flashed across the face of the white dressed young man. He nodded and praised, "Little boy, looks like you have experienced a lot after we left. This kind of mental strength is something that even your Second Brother may not be able to compare with."

“That kind of atmosphere may be very uncomfortable but without that environment, I may really have had difficulty reaching this stage today.” Xiao Yan waved his hand and smiled.

“Ke ke, it is naturally good that you are able to arrive at where you are today. Your Second Brother had been blaming me for not taking you with us back then. But after travelling through the Jia Ma Empire for that period of time, both of us nearly lost our lives. Had we brought you along, wouldn't we have ended up harming you? By staying in the clan, at the very least, Father would be able to take care of you...” Xiao Ding smiled and said.

“Alright, alright. It's so difficult for us to see each other so let's stop talking about the disheartening things of the past. Luckily nothing happened to Xiao-Yan-Zi, otherwise when I return in the future, I would definitely teach those little bastards a good lesson!” Xiao Li waved his hand and said.

“Haha, alright, let's not talk about those disheartening things.” Xiao Ding smiled, shifted his gaze to Xiao Yan and laughed, “Little boy, based on the report I heard from the mercenary who returned, your strength seems to have reached the Dou Shi level?”

Hearing this, Xiao Li beside Xiao Yan stared at Xiao Yan with a surprised face. He recalled that when he left back then, Xiao Yan had been alternating between the third and fourth stage Dou Zhi Li. Within this short three to four years, he was actually about to catch up to the both of them?”

“Yes, while training not long ago, I was promoted to a Dou Shi.”

“Tsk tsk, how outstanding. This kind of training speed is something that even your peak when you were young couldn't compare to.” Seeing Xiao Yan nod his head, Xiao Ding and Xiao Li could not help but exclaim.

“Hehe, I have no choice but to train hard. After all, the Three Year deadline is drawing near...” Xiao Yan shrugged his shoulders and laughed.

“Three Year deadline?” Xiao Ding and Xiao Li stilled momentarily. A short while later, Xiao Li gradually withdrew the smile on his face. His

voice was sinister and vicious as he said, "I heard that Nalan Yanran from the Nalan clan had gone to the Xiao Clan to force Father to end the engagement?"

"They have really gone too far..." Xiao Ding smiled blandly. In his smile, there was a little coldness. With the current strength of the Desert Metal Mercenary Company, it was really not possible to fight with the Misty Cloud Sect. But he was a person who had always knew how to endure. After coming out and polishing himself for so many years, his endurance had already reached perfection. In the Rock Desert City, the names of the cunning fox Xiao Ding and the vicious wolf Xiao Li would leave their opponents extremely worried.

"Haha, I will take care of these things. Big Brother, Second Brother, you can be at ease and concentrate on developing your strength. In the future, I might end up offending someone important and would need to rely on the both of you to protect my life..." Xiao Yan shook his head and teased with a smile playing across his lips.

Xiao Ding and Xiao Li exchanged glances with one another. Smiles surfaced on their faces as they said softly, "Regardless of what happens in the future, you only need to remember that we are brothers. Back then, when your Second Brother and I created this Desert Metal Mercenary Company, both of us were thinking of building a safe place for you to stay in the future... but looking at the situation now, it appears that you no longer need our protection."

Xiao Yan smiled involuntarily, his smile was filled with feelings of warmth.

Chapter 186: Qing Lin

On the night after Xiao Yan had arrived in Rock Desert City, Xiao Yan, who had never touched liquor made an exception and went happily to a liquor stall with Xiao Ding and Xiao Li.

The next day when Xiao Yan woke up from his sleep, his mind felt clouded and his opened eyes were blurry. He realized that the sky was already bright. Rubbing his somewhat painful head, he tilted his head and eyed the thin quilt on his body before he gradually sat up. After violently swinging his head, he smiled bitterly, crossed his legs together and formed the training seal on his hand. He entered the training mode and began to expel the remaining liquor in his body.

After training for a while, Xiao Yan gently flicked his finger and a thread of dense liquor vapor shot out from it.

Once he had expelled the alcohol from his body, Xiao Yan comfortably smoothed out his breath. He then opened his eyes gradually and once again recovered the calmness he had.

“Ga Zhi.”

Not long after Xiao Yan opened his eyes, the room’s door was suddenly gently pushed opened. A lovely and pretty figure quietly entered. However, when she saw Xiao Yan sitting on the bed, she was slightly surprised and hurriedly bowed. In a timid voice, she asked, “Young Master Xiao Yan, have you woken up?”

The girl that entered the room did not appear very old. From her appearance, it seemed that she was slightly younger than Xiao Yan. She wore a pale green elegant dress. Her body may be small, but it was strangely quite mature, appearing only slightly unripe.

Her oval face was cute and delicate, much like a pretty porcelain doll. Her timid manner was like a rabbit in a state of anxiety, causing people to be unable to help but pity her.

Seeing this green dressed girl for the first time, Xiao Yan was also at a

loss. He then quickly gave her a friendly nod.

“Young Master Xiao Yan, I... I shall help you wash?” Putting the water basin gently on a wooden rack just by the bed, the cute girl said in a soft voice as she anxiously stood by the bed.

“Hehe, it’s not necessary. I will do it myself.” Shaking his head with a smile, Xiao Yan came down from the bed and came to the side of the wooden rack. He randomly washed himself. Tilting his head to watch the girl’s anxious manner, he could not help but smile. “What is your name?”

TL: Wash means wash one’s face/teeth

“Ah?” Hearing this, the girl became a little blank. She immediately said hesitatingly, “I... I am called Qing Lin.”

“Oh.” Nodding his head, Xiao Yan took a face towel and wiped his face. After which, he threw the towel into the basin, faced the sky and inhaled the fresh and cool air.

Seeing that Xiao Yan had completed his wash, Qing Lin held the water basin tightly and briskly headed toward the outside.

Tilting his head and watching the girl’s pretty and small figure, Xiao Yan’s gaze suddenly drifted to the waist that one would desire to hug. He did not know why, but he felt that when the girl’s narrow waist twisted, there was an unusual temptation... it was like... like a beautiful female snake enchantingly swaying her waist.

“Dammit. What random thoughts am I having...” The ridiculous thought caused Xiao Yan to bitterly laugh as he scolded himself. He returned to the bedside, gripped the hilt of the huge Heavy Xuan Ruler and lifted it with his strength. With a soft cry, he placed it on his shoulders. Xiao Yan lightly bounced his body and smiled. After a year of tough training, the current him had already completely gotten used to the heaviness of the Heavy Xuan Ruler. However, each time he removed the Heavy Xuan Ruler, his speed and strength would ferociously rise. Xiao Yan believed that when fighting with an opponent, this sudden increase in speed and strength would catch the opponent off guard.

His palm grabbed the hilt of the Heavy Xuan Ruler again and pulled it out. Following an intense pressuring sound, the wooden rack by his side abruptly cracked apart with the attack.

Seeing the broken wooden rack, Xiao Yan opened his mouth and grinned before replacing the Heavy Xuan Ruler onto his back.

“Ah...” At the entrance, Qing Lin, who had just returned after clearing the water, could not help but let out a soft surprised gasp. After which, she hurriedly ran over, squatted down and picked up the clothes on the ground.

Eyeing the busy little girl, Xiao Yan gave an embarrassed smile. He apologetically squatted down, extended his hand and was about to help pick up the fallen clothes when his shifting gaze suddenly stopped on Qing Lin’s snow white wrist that had appeared from under her sleeve.

The snow white wrist actually grew some green colored – snake scale?

His gaze stared at Qing Lin with surprise. Then, Xiao Yan’s gaze involuntarily swept toward where her legs were, but he did not see a snake tail. He could only see two three inch long small feet.

Qing Lin, who was tidying up the clothes suddenly raised her small face. When she saw Xiao Yan’s shocked expression, she followed his gaze and slowly shifted downwards and finally stopped at the arm she had accidentally revealed. Her cute face immediately turned white as she pulled down her sleeves and carefully took two steps back. After which, she hugged her small legs with her hands, leaned against the corner of the wall and squatted down. Her small body also started trembling.

“I’m... I’m sorry... I... I did not intend to scare you.” The little girl shivered as she hugged her small legs. Her timid voice had a little anxiety and tears began to fall down her face.

Feeling at a loss from the little girl’s sensitive mood, Xiao Yan sighed gently in his heart while staring at the timid manner of Qing Lin. He had heard others mention that in areas near the Tager Desert, there would occasionally be human women who would have relations with Snake-People. According to logic, when a Snake-Person and a human are

involved, it would usually not result in pregnancy. However, there could always be an exception to everything. A slight chance existed that women with relations to a Snake-Person could become pregnant and eventually give birth...

Although a child would be born, this kind of baby with both human and Snake-People's blood usually had difficulty living past two years of age. However, the Qing Lin in front of Xiao Yan... seemed to have already reached thirteen or fourteen. What actually happened?

Xiao Yan gazed at the little girl with pity and bitterly smiled. Even if she could live until she was old, what was the use? People like Qing Lin would be viewed as a curse by both the humans and the Snake-People. To live so many years, other than receiving more disdainful looks and ridicule, there did not seem to be anything else in her life...

Slowly moving to Qing Lin's side, Xiao Yan lowered his body and rubbed his hand gently on the little girl's head. After which, he held her hand under her frightened expression and carefully pulled open her sleeves. He watched the green colored snake scales and abruptly said in a gentle and soft voice, "What a beautiful scale."

Hearing this, the little girl's frightened expression turned blank. Since she had been born, Xiao Yan was the first person who said that the scales, which even she herself was afraid of, was beautiful...

Within the trauma filled weak little spirit a strange feeling stealthily surfaced. Opening her eyes which were faintly releasing an unusual and bewitching feeling, she timidly said, "Is Young Master not afraid?"

Staring at the pair of moist eyes belonging to Qing Lin, Xiao Yan realized that they were slightly green in color. Moreover... at the deep regions of the pupils, there appeared to be three extremely small dark green spots that were hidden.

Staring intently at that somewhat demonic dark green pupils, Xiao Yan suddenly felt somewhat absent minded. A moment later, his heart suddenly trembled and he swiftly regained consciousness. A startled expression faintly surfaced on his face. What kind of demonic eyes were

these? Even with his Spiritual Strength, he actually became somewhat absentminded?

With his shock still remaining, Xiao Yan once again stared at the little girl's pupils. However, he was stunned to realize that the three tiny dark green spots had actually disappeared.

"Don't tell me that I was seeing things?" Xiao Yan mumbled in a stunned voice. He shook his head violently and once again stared at the little girl for a moment. Other than her eyes being slightly green, there did not seem to be any tiny spots present.

"Ugh... it was most likely the result of me drinking last night." Helplessly shaking his head, Xiao Yan pulled down Qing Lin's sleeves. After which, he helped her to her feet and smiled as he watched this timid girl who was at his shoulder's height. With a smile, he apologized, "I'm sorry. I've frightened you."

Qing Lin hurriedly shook her head. Her small hand was so anxious that she wrinkled the clothes in her hand. Since her birth, Xiao Yan was also the first to apologize to her in all these years.

"Young Master, during this period of time, I will be your personal maid. If there is anything, you can instruct Qing Lin." Qing Lin bowed and said softly.

Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. He rubbed the little girl's head and asked with a smile, "Where are my brothers?"

"Company Leader Xiao Ding and Xiao Li had already gone to manage the things in the Company. They told me that if Young Master wants to find them, I can bring you to the Meeting Room at the forecourt." Qing Lin said in a gentle voice.

"Oh, since they are busy, then forget it." Shaking his head with a smile, Xiao Yan carried the Heavy Xuan Ruler and walked out. He smiled and said, "Let's go, show me around this Desert Metal Mercenary Company."

"Yes." After responding gently, Qing Lin carefully followed.

Walking out of the room, the sunlight outside splashed downwards,

causing one's body to feel extremely warm. Although the desert was very hot, it was still currently morning time, where the temperature of the sunlight had not reached the extent of causing one to feel the heat.

While walking with Qing Lin within the inner regions of the Mercenary Company, the mercenaries whom they met would stop and greet Xiao Yan in a friendly manner. It appeared that all of them knew Xiao Yan's identity.

However, when their gaze swept toward Qing Lin by the side, their smiles gradually turned cold. In some of their eyes, there was even a faint bit of disgust.

When faced with such an expression from them, Xiao Yan could only helplessly sigh. It looked like Qing Lin's identity was something these people also knew about. Back when Xiao Yan had become a useless cripple, he had also received such treatment. This was the reason for him to express pity to the helpless and pitiful like Qing Lin. However, the Mercenary Company by the border of the desert all had a blood feud with the Snake-People that was hard to erase. Each time these mercenaries remembered that the little girl in front of them had the dirty Snake-People's blood flowing in her, they would involuntarily display a disgusted expression. This kind of sentiment was something that almost nothing could suppress. This was the disgust that had formed from the long conflicts and the enmity between the humans and the Snake-People.

Having both the human's and Snake-People's blood at the same time, Qing Lin had to bear the discrimination as an abomination from both sides. Thinking about it, she was the most innocent girl.

While she was following by Xiao Yan's side along the way, Qing Lin's small pretty body would shiver slightly each time the disgusted gazes were shot from the surroundings. The cute small face that should have caused numerous people to glance at admiringly was filled with gloominess.

Walking past a corner, Xiao Yan could not help but sigh. He slowly came to a stop, tilted his head toward Qing Lin whose face had suddenly become uneasy because of his sigh. After musing for a while, he gently said, "Qing

Lin, don't be too conscious of other people's gazes. All you need to remember is that you do not live for those other people. You live because of yourself!" Having said those words, Xiao Yan rubbed Qing Lin's head and continued to walk into the distance.

Bearing Xiao Yan's words, Qing Lin stood on the spot, at a loss. A long time later, a strange splendor appeared on her the cute and exquisite face. Her pretty face gently sniffed. Raising her small face, the three tiny green colored spots in her dark green colored eyes suddenly surfaced silently.

"Thank you, Young Master Xiao Yan..."

After she softly muttered the sentence, Qing Lin's small face suddenly displayed a smile that was filled with enticement. After which, she broke into a joyful walk and caught up to the back figure of the young man in front of her.

Chapter 187: Competition

“Young master, wake up...”

Early in the morning, Qing Lin softly shouted. Her hands were placed on her narrow waist while her exquisite small face helplessly watched Xiao Yan on the bed, hugging his quilt and sleeping.

Under Qing Lin's shout, Xiao Yan semi-consciously opened his eyes. With heavy eyelids, he lazily sat up and did not know if he wanted to laugh or cry as he looked at Qing Lin pouting her lips beside him. With a sigh, he gave up the thought of lying lazily in bed. With the support of Qing Lin's gentle and tender small hands, he quickly put on his clothes.

“Young Master, you cannot blame Qing Lin for disturbing your sleep. Today is the day of Desert Metal Mercenary Company's competition that occurs once every three months and is also the most lively time of the Company in the three months. Last night you had even reminded me to wake you up, or else...” Having said until this point, a bright redness faintly appeared on Qing Lin's exquisite small face as she said in a voice that could not be heard, “Else you said that Qing Lin's bottom will suffer.”

“Cough...” During early morning, when a man just woke up, it was the time when he was most potent. Although Qing Lin in front of him was only thirteen or fourteen, her body, perhaps as a result of having both the blood of a human and a snake, protruded and sunk in the correct places. She was full where it should be and narrow at the right places. All of these were lethal temptations to those who had strange likings.

Although Xiao Yan did not have those kind of interests, an excitement would still appear in his heart during such a time. Luckily, he managed to swiftly suppress such an excitement. Otherwise, he would be embarrassed to death.

Qing Lin's delicate small hands massaged Xiao Yan until he was extremely satisfied. Xiao Yan stretched his lazy waist and teasingly laughed, “This kind of lifestyle is really that of a young master. In the future, when I don't have such a thoughtful person by my side, won't I

have to return to the life I lead before?”

Hearing this, Qing Lin felt a sweetness in her heart. After these few days of living together, she and Xiao Yan’s relationship had grown increasingly familiar. The gentle treatment that Xiao Yan gave her also caused Qing Lin to be extremely willing to continue serving him.

“If Young Master is willing, Qing Lin can continue to follow by your side as a female servant.” Qing Lin whispered as her small hand flattened the creases on Xiao Yan’s sleeves.

“Haha I also wish to but I will spend at most ten days here. After ten days, I will still have to continue through the desert and proceed with my training. In that kind of environment, if a young girl like you followed by my side, you would be seeking hardship. Relax, before I leave, I will tell Big Brother to take good care of you.” Xiao Yan rubbed Qing Lin’s head and smiled.

Hearing Xiao Yan’s words, a hint of disappointment flashed across Qing Lin’s downcast eyes. A moment later, however, she hurriedly gave a forceful smile and said, “Alright, Young Master. We should be leaving. The competition may have already begun.”

Nodding his head with a smile, Xiao Yan carried the Heavy Xuan Ruler on his back and strode out of the room. The alert Qing Lin quickly stepped forward to open the door, turned around and gave Xiao Yan a tender and lovely grin.

competition was a strength examination that the Desert Metal Mercenary Company held once every three months. The aim of such a competition was to encourage the members of the troop to put in effort to train. This was because the winner of these competitions would usually earn the right to form their own small group and become team leader.

In order to obtain this right, the general culture within the Desert Metal Mercenary Company was for the mercenaries to be diligent and climb upwards. The rate of growth of the Desert Metal members’ strengths far exceeded other mercenaries because of this kind of competition. Thus, the Desert Metal Mercenary Company was near the top among the mercenary

companies Rock Desert City.

Xiao Yan was also in agreement of having this kind of competition that had a positive influence. As Xiao Yan expected, the one who suggested such a competition was his Big Brother whose mind had always been nimble. In additions, the original flaws of this competition had already gradually become solved. Thus, the effect the competition obtained was also increasingly notable. After making a few turns in the compound of the mercenary company, Xiao Yan met a few people in the same boat as him who were rushing about since they just got up. When they met, they smiled and greeted each other before they began madly running toward the training ground in the backyard.

Maybe it was because of Xiao Yan. Now, when the Desert Metal Mercenary Company members met Qing Lin, the disgust on their faces was much more suppressed. Although their treatment of her remained cold, they no longer used vile words on her like they did in the past.

Xiao Yan had no intention of taking part in the competition and, thus he need not rush as much as the others. He and Qing Lin chatted happily as they slowly walked toward the backyard.

By the time the two of them arrived at the training ground, many extremely heated fights had already begun. The battleground had nearly a hundred people in a messy fight while the audience below was yelling with agitated expressions. At some places, there were even people gambling on who would be the five people remaining.

Standing on a huge rock outside the battleground, Xiao Yan pulled Qing Lin up. The two of them stood side by side as they watched the foul battle going on in the training ground. Occasionally, when they saw some underhanded actions, they could not help but laugh in spite of themselves.

“Young Master, Company Leader Xiao Ding and the others are up there.” When Xiao Yan was watching attentively, Qing Lin beside him suddenly pointed toward a high platform on the opposite side of the training ground and smiled at Xiao Yan.

“Oh?” Xiao Yan was still for a moment before he lifted his eyes and

looked over. He saw Xiao Ding and Xiao Li seated on the tall platform. Beside them were some people who were wearing the Desert Metal Mercenary Company uniform. It appeared that they were the upper echelons of the company. During the last few days, he had met all of them, so he could vaguely recognize them.

As Xiao Yan was watching them, Xiao Ding and Xiao Li also shifted their gazes over. The three of them looked at each other, smiled involuntarily and waved their hands.

Just as Xiao Yan was about to withdraw his gaze, he suddenly noticed Xiao Li's gesture and briefly stilled. Afterwards, Xiao Yan pointed at the battleground and then at himself.

Seeing this, Xiao Li smiled and nodded. He lowered his head and said something to Xiao Ding beside him. Under the helpless expression of the latter, he leapt from the tall platform and landed in the middle of the battleground.

Xiao Yan helplessly rolled his eyes as he watched Xiao Li's action. He said something to Qing Lin beside him and stomped his feet suddenly on the huge rock. Following an explosive sound, his figure shot into the battleground, flipped in the air and stepped onto the battleground with both legs.

"Ha ha, Xiao-Yan-Zi, let me see how strong you, as the little genius of the clan, have become in these few years!" Xiao Li's voice, which was carried along by Dou Qi, suppressed the noise around the training ground.

"Second Company Leader! Second Company Leader!"

Hearing Xiao Li's loud shout, the surrounding people were briefly stunned before their gazes became excited as they loudly cheered. Instantly, waves of fanatic cries around the training ground turned into a sound tide that shot to the clouds.

"Second Brother, your younger brother naturally dares not refuse!" The surrounding heated atmosphere gave Xiao Yan a hot-blooded feeling in his heart. His hand held the hilt of the Heavy Xuan Ruler and drew it abruptly. With a 'qiang' sound, he held the heavy ruler with an inclined

grip and laughed boldly.

“Haha, good!”

Seeing this, Xiao Li laughed loudly. He flipped his hand and a tungsten steel long spear appeared in his palm. Suddenly, a silver colored Dou Qi suddenly soared from his body and formed a silver colored Dou Qi cloak over his skin.

“In these few years that we have not met, Second Brother’s lightning type Dou Qi has become increasingly polished.” Xiao Yan’s gaze swept across the silver colored Dou Qi cloak on Xiao Li’s body and could not resist shaking his head. Xiao Li’s lightning type Dou Qi was extremely rare. Besides having a very strong offensive strength, this kind of Dou Qi also possessed a paralyzing effect. In battle, it really caused people to have a headache.

Gradually releasing a mouthful of air, the Purple Flame Dou Qi in Xiao Yan’s body swiftly flowed. A moment later, a Dou Qi cloak with Purple Flames soaring from it similarly wrapped Xiao Yan within it.

“Oh man...” Seeing the Purple Flame Dou Qi cloak that Xiao Yan had summoned, Xiao Li could not help but praise. He immediately held his long lance tightly and shouted, “Let’s start!”

Just as Xiao Li’s voice fell, his and Xiao Yan’s body moved at almost the same time. Their legs stepped on the ground and their bodies shot out.

Seeing that the two of people had managed to open a pathway in the messy battleground, the surrounding mercenaries once again grew excited. It was rare for them to witness a fight between two Dou Shis. Today, these people who were treated to this battle became extremely excited.

“Young Master, go for it!” Standing on the huge rock, Qing Lin’s small face was bright red as she shouted in a tender voice.

“Haha, Company Leader. Do you think the Second Company Leader or Brother Xiao Yan has a better chance of winning?” On the tall platform, Xue Lan’s gaze drifted to the battleground and asked with a lovely laugh.

Hearing Xue Lan’s question, the few others who formed the upper

echelons turned their gazes over and watched Xiao Ding, who made the daily decisions on all matters in the company.

Being the center of attention, Xiao Ding lifted his tea cup as though nothing had happened. He took a sip, swept his gaze across the battleground and said with a smile, "Second Brother is currently a four star Dou Shi. At the rate he is practicing at, he will soon reach the five star level."

"Xiao-Yan-Zi's current strength is just that of someone who has entered the Dou Shi class. Moreover, Second Brother uses a lightning type Dou Qi, which everyone here should have experienced before. Although I don't have a clue about Xiao-Yan-Zi's Purple Flame Dou Qi but... you tell me, whose chances of winning is higher?" A cunningness flashed across Xiao Ding's eyes as he answered.

"From the looks of it, won't Second Company Leader win for certain? After all, their strength differs by a few stars..." Hearing this, Xue Lan could not help but twitch her mouth and said in a somewhat disappointed voice. She really wanted to see Xiao Li made a fool of.

"Hehe..." Xiao Ding laughed as he gently knocked on the table with his fingers. His gaze stared at the young man covered in Purple Flame Dou Qi standing on the battleground. In a soft voice, he said, "If it was someone else, he may indeed not have any chance of winning. But... regarding my youngest brother, you cannot use common sense to judge. That little guy liked to hide his true self since he was young. I don't believe that his real strength is just the bit on the surface..."

"This... in this fight, Xiao-Yan-Zi is the one who has a higher chance of winning!"

Chapter 188: A Competition Between Brothers

On the huge empty yard, a silver and a purple human figure appeared to have torn out two pathways in the messy battleground. A long, empty space was left where the both of them passed.

“Bang!” Following the clear sound of metals coming into contact with each other, a ferocious energy wave violently flowed out from the center of the battleground. Instantly, the messy fighting that was going on within a ten meter radius of them both was cleared into an empty circle was formed.

Tightly holding the Heavy Xuan Ruler, Xiao Yan lifted his eyes and stared at the long spear that was trickily stabbing at him like a poisonous snake. At the top of the spear was a silver electric arc that jumped repeatedly. Taking in a light breath, Xiao Yan violently swung the heavy ruler in his hand.

“Clang!” The tip of the spear struck against the huge body of the ruler. Under the pressure of the strength the heavy ruler carried, the narrow and weak long spear was crushed into a alarming arc with the tip closing in on the spear handle where Xiao Li was holding.

“Hee hee, boy, you are quite strong.” Seeing that he was at a slight disadvantage after the first exchange, Xiao Li could not help but smile. On his palm, Dou Qi began to agglomerate and knocked violently into the spear handle. A wave of electric energy flowed through the spear and swiftly entered the heavy ruler.

As the electrical flow entered the heavy ruler, Xiao Yan’s palm, which was tightly holding the Heavy Xuan Ruler immediately trembled slightly. The Purple Flame Dou Qi in his body continued to flow, quickly expelling the paralyzing energy from his body.

“Xiao-Yan-Zi, when your Second Brother fights with people, there will be no warm-ups. Since we are going to fight, then I will put in all my effort.

You better be careful!”

In the instant Xiao Yan’s palm trembled, Xiao Li let out a ‘hee hee’ laughter. The long spear strangely turned and scratched across the heavy ruler, leaving a burst of sparks. After which, it stabbed out explosively.

“Triple Lightning Arc Dance!”

When the long spear began moving, Xiao Li called out softly. Instantly, three snake shaped lightning arcs abruptly appeared on the spear. The lightning arcs flickered as they crossed each other. Amidst a ‘chi chi’ sound, they each carried a very strong energy that no one dared to underestimate.

“Triple Lightning Arc Dance?”

“Ugh... It hasn’t been that long but the Second Company Leader has already used the ‘Triple Lightning Arc Dance’?” Seeing Xiao Li’s attack, numerous surprised voices sounded below the battleground. This ‘Triple Lightning Arc Dance’ was a killer move of Xiao Li. It was unexpected that he had actually displayed it after only exchanging blows for a short while. Was he trying to end the fight quickly?

“Ke ke, looks like Brother Xiao Yan is going to suffer. This ‘Triple Lightning Arc Dance’ of the Second Company Leader is a Low Xuan class Dou Technique. With the paralyzing effect of the Lightning type Dou Qi, even a four star Dou Shi would not easily dare to take it head on. Tsk tsk, they had only just started exchanging blows, but the Second Company Leader has already used it. Looks like Brother Xiao Yan is fairly strong.” One of the members of the Desert Metal Mercenary Company upper echelon on the tall platform could not help but laugh.

“This guy really knows how to bully people. It’s fine that his level is slightly higher than Xiao Yan’s, but he actually used a Xuan Class Dou Techniques...” Xue Lan rubbed her lips together and defended Xiao Yan from the injustice as she said.

“haha, the lightning type Dou Qi of Second Brother belongs to the type that rushes out in one go. If the fight were to drag out, it would be to his disadvantage. Thus, no matter who he fights with, he must choose the

fastest method to determine the victor. Otherwise, once his strength weakens, he would find himself in a bad situation.” Xiao Ding smiled, shook his head and mused.

Hearing this, everyone smiled helplessly. They could only pray in their hearts that Xiao Yan could withstand this attack.

In the battleground, Xiao Yan was also a little shocked when Xiao Li displayed his Dou Technique. However, this one year of tough training had caused his mental strength to reach a level that his past self could not compare with. In an instant, he calmed down. A Purple Flame Dou Qi flowed out from the vortex in his body and covered the ruler’s body, preventing Xiao Li’s lightning type Dou Qi from using the ruler to enter his body and paralyze him.

After being entirely wrapped by the Purple Flame, the black Heavy Xuan Ruler, spurred on by Xiao Yan’s full strength, carried a pressuring wind as it viciously smashed at the long spear that was swiftly piercing toward him.

Under the anxious observation of everyone, the heavy ruler and the long spear clashed violently. An instant later, an explosion sounded and tiny cracks appeared on the rock flooring where their legs stood.

“Ding!” The tip of the spear quickly stabbed at the heavy ruler. A strip of electric arc threateningly and ferociously crashed against the ruler. The strong and violent force that it carried abruptly lifted the heavy ruler. In addition, the contact from the lightning arc also reduced the Purple Flame Dou Qi on the Heavy Xuan Ruler by half. “Hee hee.” Seeing that Xiao Yan was forced to take a step back while carrying the Heavy Xuan Ruler in his hand, Xiao Li laughed. However, he did not hold anything back. As Xiao Yan was being pushed back, the long spear violently pierced at the Heavy Xuan Ruler which did not have the time to react as it was being pushed back.

“Ding!” Another clear sound echoed. The Purple Flame Dou Qi on the heavy ruler had totally vanished.

“Ding!” After banishing the Purple Flame, Xiao Li’s long spear continued

its lightning like piercing. At the same time, the last electric energy also violently sprang from the spear and knocked heavily on the Heavy Xuan Ruler. Following a loud sound, the Heavy Xuan Ruler left Xiao Yan's hand and flipped over ten times before it fell on the ground.

"Little boy, the battle is over." Holding the long spear in his hand, Xiao Li smiled at Xiao Yan.

"Hiss..." Seeing Xiao Yan's weapon leaving his hand, waves of hissing sounded around the battleground. In this kind of fight, losing one's weapon was basically taking a step into the side of defeat.

Under normal circumstances, that was logically the case. However, for Xiao Yan, this situation was totally the opposite. The Heavy Xuan Ruler in his hand could indeed raise some of his offensive strength. However, it was more of a restraint on Xiao Yan. With the Heavy Xuan Ruler on his body, not only was Xiao Yan's speed terribly suppressed but the Dou Qi in his body must be stimulated with all his strength in order to handle a battle of this level. However, with the Heavy Xuan Ruler leaving his hand, the last bond that suppressed Xiao Yan's strength was totally removed.

The Xiao Yan after losing the burden of the Heavy Xuan Ruler was at his peak form!

TL: This isn't even my final form!

Thus, when he heard Xiao Li's words, Xiao Yan noncommittally shrugged his shoulders, "That may not be true."

Seeing that Xiao Yan's face was still calmly smiling, Xiao Li was a little stunned. Immediately, the long spear in his hand lightly shot toward Xiao Yan's shoulders.

"Explosive Steps!"

Raising his face, Xiao Yan gave a brilliant smile. As his voice called out, his feet violently stomped on the ground. With the sound of an energy explosion, his body shot out and appeared beside Xiao Li in an instant.

Within the battleground, everyone who saw Xiao Yan's speed could not help but let out a surprised cry. Clearly, they could not understand how, in

such a situation, Xiao Yan's speed could rise so explosively as though he had eaten some medicine.

The sudden appearance of Xiao Yan beside Xiao Li caused a look of shock to flash across Xiao Li's face. His palm which was tightly holding the long spear suddenly pulled backwards. The spear moved along his waist and spun quickly like a windmill. While spinning, threads of electric light leaped and flickered.

Lightly stepping onto the tip of the spear, Xiao Yan's figure once again exceeded everyone's expectations and explosively retreated.

When Xiao Yan was shooting backwards, his palm suddenly extended out and immediately clenched tightly. Immediately, a vicious suction force flowed out from his palm. A short distance away, Xiao Li did not have the time to block it. His body was unsteady and the windmill like long spear was pulled in all directions. The attack could no longer be completed.

With the suction force from his palm, Xiao Yan's body which was flying backwards had strangely come to a stop. He lifted his head, watched Xiao Li who was being sucked over and smiled. His feet once again stepped violently on the ground. Following an explosive sound, his body appeared in front of Xiao Li like lightning.

"Second Brother, that ruler isn't my weapon. What I specialize in, is still... close combat!" Xiao Yan suddenly laughed softly as the two pairs of eyes came into close distance contact. Under Xiao Li's tightly shrunk eyes, Xiao Yan's hand immediately tightened into a fist. Then, swinging his hand so that his body could borrow the strength and rotate halfway, Xiao Yan strangely fell backwards into Xiao Li's chest.

With his back facing Xiao Li, Xiao Yan's elbow paused for a moment before it carried a sharp air sound that seemed to have broken the wind resistance as it violently smashed toward Xiao Li's chest.

Feeling the frightening force that Xiao Yan's elbow possessed, Xiao Li's expression abruptly changed. A serious glint swiftly flashed across his eyes. The right fist that was by his chest suddenly fell heavily.

As Xiao Li's fist fell, a piercing silver light was emitted from his chest

and finally formed a small silver shield the size of a washbasin around half an inch from his chest.

“Tsk tsk... Second Brother must have been pushed to the extreme. He even used this life-protecting ‘Silver Lightning Shield’...” Seeing the small silver colored shield on Xiao Li’s chest, Xiao Ding shook his head and whispered.

“I knew it. Xiao-Yan-Zi would always have his own hidden card. Judging his strength from the surface is an extremely foolish move.” Xiao Ding’s gaze swept across that huge Heavy Xuan Ruler in the battle ground and smiled. “Everyone, have you all not noticed that since the ruler left him, Xiao-Yan-Zi’s speed and strength had rose by about thirty to forty percent?”

Hearing this, surprise and amazement surfaced on the faces of Xue Lan and the others by the side.

Within the battleground, Xiao Yan felt the energy fluctuations behind him. However, the force on his elbow was not reduced. An instant later, it heavily smashed onto the small silver colored shield.

“Bang!” Following a loud sound, everyone could see with their eyes that a cluster of shapeless energy ripples suddenly spread out from between both bodies. It extended over a radius of ten meters before it gradually dissipated.

In the battleground, Xiao Yan and Xiao Li’s bodies both came to a sudden stop. Everyone could see that at the point the elbow and the silver shield came into contact, the silver shield was violently releasing one ripple after another.

The ripples swiftly spread. A moment later, they gradually ceased. The two bodies also shot backwards as if they had received an electric shock.

“Boy, I did not expect that you still knew this kind of high level physical Dou Technique. Hee hee, but the difference in our strength is too great. It isn’t sufficient to break my ‘Silver Lightning Shield’...” Xiao Li suddenly said as his body was swiftly retreating.

“Ke ke... that may not be certain.” With a faint smile, Xiao Yan’s fist suddenly tightened and he softly cried, “Explode!”

“Bang!” As Xiao Yan’s voice fell, a soft muffled sound was suddenly emitted from within Xiao Li, who was falling backwards. Instantly, Xiao Li appeared to have been struck by lightning as his body quivered intensely for a few moments. His face had suddenly become much paler.

Xiao Li’s body also started to shoot backwards even more. Each time his feet stepped on the ground, it would leave a deep footprint.

After retreating for around twenty steps, Xiao Li finally stabilized his body. At this moment, however, a human figure flashed in front of him and the sharp tip of a spear was held at his throat.

“Second Brother, you have underestimated your opponent...” Xiao Yan smiled and said softly as he pointed the sharp tip of the spear at Xiao Li.

Chapter 189: Qing Lin's Discovery

Seeing that within a few minutes, the fight within the battleground had suddenly changed, everybody around the battleground widened their eyes, clearly stunned. It was difficult to imagine that Xiao Li, someone who almost no one could match in the company, would actually be mysteriously defeated by Xiao Yan, who was younger than him by seven or eight years.

Within the battleground, Xiao Li stared at the tip of the spear and was stunned for a long while before he finally recovered. His gaze swept across the smiling Xiao Yan in front of him and clicked his tongue as he shook his head. He sighed, "Little boy, how unexpected. You have hid so well. The strength that you had displayed does not appear to be merely that of a normal one star Dou Shi."

"Ke ke, I was merely lucky." Shaking his head while laughing, Xiao Yan inserted the spear into the ground and then headed to where the Heavy Xuan Ruler was a short distance away. He was about to lift it up when Xiao Li beside him stopped him with a smile.

"Let me try. This ruler... seems a little strange." Xiao Li curiously stared at the huge ruler on the ground and laughed as he said.

"Uh?" Hearing this, Xiao Yan was slightly at a loss, but he quickly smiled and nodded his head. He took a step back while his gaze somewhat mocking.

Xiao Li rubbed his hands and gradually stood by the Heavy Xuan Ruler's side. His hand gripped the ruler, then tightly grabbed it. After letting out a breath, he carelessly pulled with his hand. When his hand pulled, Xiao Li's expression changed and he let out a shocked cry. He realized that ever since the Heavy Xuan Ruler entered his hand, the swift surging lightning Dou Qi in his body had suddenly been reduced to the speed of a turtle's jog...

"Wow, there really is something strange..." Mumbling in a stunned voice, Xiao Li tightened his arm. Numerous veins began pulsing on the crook of

his arm.

Tightly holding the Heavy Xuan Ruler, Xiao Li's face gradually turned red as he let out a soft cry, "Up!"

As the cry fell, Xiao Li's arm trembled as it slowly lifted up. After which, his two hands firmly grasped the ruler in front of him and waved it left and right with all his strength. Afterwards, the gaze Xiao Li used to look at Xiao Yan had some faint shock.

"You... you were actually carrying this just now to fight with me?" Seeing the smile on the delicate and handsome face of Xiao Yan, Xiao Li's mouth was dry as he said. God, it was already very amazing that one can even carry this and move around smoothly. Yet, Xiao Yan actually carried this and exchanged quite a number of blows with Xiao Li during their fight. How could this not cause Xiao Li to be astonished and stunned?

Eyeing Xiao Li's astonished manner, Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. His palm received the Heavy Xuan Ruler and easily placed it onto his back.

With his eyes staring intently at Xiao Yan's action, Xiao Li realized that when Xiao Yan received the Heavy Xuan Ruler, his hand had merely sunk a little. The instant after it sunk, the small dop was once again perfectly adjusted.

Seeing the relaxed manner of Xiao Yan, Xiao Li's mouth opened. It was a long while later before he sighed in shock and shook his head. "Little boy, how outstanding... have those eyes of Nalan Yanran been blinded? How many in the Jia Ma Empire can be considered as outstanding as my brother? She actually thinks you aren't good enough?"

Xiao Yan smiled, waved his hand and said, "At the very least, Xun Er will not be weaker than me."

"Xun Er? Haha. That girl. I haven't been back for so many years, but that girl must have become very charming, no? It should be known that when she was small, those young masters in Wu Tan City came to the walls of the Xiao Clan to take a look at her. But she seemed to stick to you. Hee hee." Hearing the elegant name, Xiao Li stilled momentarily before he smiled and said yearningly.

Recalling the young lady's beautiful face and moving figure, Xiao Yan also gently smiled emotionally. His hand lightly patted the Heavy Xuan Ruler and smiled, "If there is a chance in the future, I will bring her to visit you. Ah... but now, I have some important matters that need both Big Brother's and Second Brother's help."

"Oh? There's something? No problem! Just tell us. Even if it is beyond our ability, Big Brother and Second Brother will do our best to help." When Xiao Li heard Xiao Yan, he immediately waved his hand and smiled.

"Yes." With a smile, Xiao Yan nodded his head.

.....

The three of them sat within a spacious room while Qing Li carefully carried three cups of tea to distribute to each of them before obediently standing behind Xiao Yan.

"Haha, Xiao-Yan-Zi, you have some problem? Just say it out and let Big Brother analyze it for you." Xiao Ding smiled and said to Xiao Yan as he lifted his teacup to take a sip.

Xiao Yan nodded with a smile before musing for awhile. In a soft voice, he said, "The reason for me coming to the Tager Desert is to search for something."

"Something? What thing?" Hearing this, Xiao Li asked curiously with a smile.

"Heavenly Flame..." Xiao Yan whispered as his finger lightly tapped on the table.

"Uh..." When the words 'Heavenly Flame' were said, the room immediately became much quieter. Xiao Ding and Xiao Li exchanged gazes before asking in a puzzled voice, "'Heavenly Flame'? That kind of thing seems to be something only an Alchemist would need. What do you need it for?"

Xiao Yan shrugged his shoulders and smiled indifferently, "Because I am an Alchemist."

“Huh?” Hearing this, Xiao Ding and Xiao Li’s faces stiffened. A moment later, an unrestrained joy surfaced, “You are an Alchemist?”

“Haha, I was lucky to possess the talent for becoming an alchemist and when I was at Wu Tan City, I also met a teacher, so...” Xiao Yan said with a smile.

“Tsk tsk... incredible. I never expected that our Xiao Clan would also produce an alchemist. Ha ha.” Seeing that Xiao Yan nodded his head and admitting, Xiao Ding and Xiao Li immediately laughed out loud. Their laughter contained both envy and satisfaction.

“The ‘Heavenly Flame’s’ rarity is so great that it is a little frightening. Although we have muddled along in the Rock Desert City for a long time, we have really not heard anyone mentioning anything about where there are traces of the ‘Heavenly Flame’.” After rejoicing, Xiao Ding frowned and helplessly said.

Shaking his head with a smile, Xiao Yan tapped his finger on the storage ring, withdrew a piece of an old goatskin scroll and placed it on the table. His finger pointed at a flame symbol on it and said softly, “This is a map that I managed to obtain. At this region marked by the flame symbol, there should be a higher chance of finding traces of the ‘Heavenly Flame’. However, I am unfamiliar with the surrounding terrain of the Rock Desert City, thus... I cannot find the exact place marked by the Flame Symbol. Big Brother, the two of you been around here for quite some time. Do you know of any strange places around the Rock Desert City?”

Hearing this, Xiao Ding pulled over the map. His gaze roughly swept over the map before he said with surprise, “What a detailed map. This is the first time I’ve ever seen such a map.”

“Yes, it’s so detailed it is a little overboard.” Xiao Li nodded his head. He frowned and studied the map in detail before saying softly, “The place marked by the flame symbol seems to be at to the east of Rock Desert City.”

“Yes. More accurately speaking, it should be a little south-east of Rock Desert City.” Xiao Ding nodded his head. He voiced his thoughts, “But the

east side of the Rock Desert City does not seem to have any strange places.”

“There’s indeed nothing. I have once brought people to search that place for a few days during one of our missions but I did not find any strange places.” Xiao Li also shook his head and said helplessly.

Seeing the two of them shake their head, disappointment rose on Xiao Yan’s face. It appeared that there was no trace of the ‘Heavenly Flame’ there...

However, just as Xiao Yan was filled with disappointment, a gentle voice suddenly sounded within the room.

“That...Young Master, the east side of the Rock Desert City... seems to have something strange.”

Hearing this, Xiao Yan stilled. He quickly turned around and stared at Qing Lin who was twisting her small hands under his searing gaze. He hurriedly said, “Do you know something?”

To the side, Xiao Ding and Xiao Li also shifted their stunned gaze toward Qing Lin. Clearly, they were not informed.

Being the center of attention of the three gazes in the room, the timidity on Qing Lin’s small face grew. She said haltingly, “I am also unsure if my senses are accurate... but half a year ago, I really sensed that there was some unusual movement at a region to the east of the Rock Desert City.”

“How do you know about it? You don’t seem to possess such a strength.” Xiao Ding’s palm rubbed his tea cup as he said with suspicion.

“I... I don’t know. Half a year ago, I sensed a very strong Qi that appeared outside Rock Desert City. That Qi... and the blood in my body, seemed to be a little similar. Even the Company Leader of the Sand Mercenary Company is very weak compared to that Qi.” Qing Lin carefully stuck herself tightly to Xiao Yan as she whispered.

“Oh?” Hearing this, Xiao Ding and Xiao Li were a little uneasy. The Company Leader of the Sand Mercenary Company was a Da Dou Shi. If

even he was much weaker than the mysterious person. That... Did that mean that the other party was at least at the Dou Huang level?

“A Qi that is similar to your bloodline? Don’t tell me it is Queen Medusa?” After musing for a while, Xiao Li suddenly said in a shocked voice. With Queen Medusa’s strength, it should not be too hard for her to turn the Rock Desert City into ashes. This kind of extremely terrifying person had actually roamed the area surrounding Rock Desert City without anyone knowing?

When the name ‘Queen Medusa’ entered his ears, Xiao Ding’s expression also changed slightly. Around the Tager Desert, this name was as renowned as Pill-King Gu He was within the Jia Ma Empire.

“I don’t know...” Qing Lin shook her head. She whispered, “I could only vaguely sense it. Half a year ago, she had suddenly arrived somewhere to the east of Rock Desert City. There, she seemed to have stayed for a night. During the night, the Qi to the east was extremely irritable. I also know that when she left, she seemed to have been injured...”

Hearing Qing Lin narrating the tale, Xiao Yan sighed lightly. His eyes narrowed as he said softly, “Can you be certain of the exact location where she stayed?”

“I should be. Although half a year has passed, the Qi that she had left behind is pretty dense. I... I can rely on the bloodline in me... I should be able to find that place.” When she mentioned her bloodline, Qing Lin’s face clearly became a little dejected. However, she maintained a forceful smile as she said.

“If Young Master wants to go, Qing Lin will try her best to bring you there!”

“Haha, thank you very much Qing Lin... Let’s go and take a look tomorrow. I hope the results won’t disappoint me.” Xiao Yan smiled and nodded as he said softly.

Chapter 190: Surveying The Terrain

In the vast desert, the yellow sand raged.

“Qing Lin, are you certain that it’s here?” Xiao Yan’s face was filled with surprise as he watched the flat desert in front of him. The terrain here was extremely ordinary with nothing special that would attract one’s attention and there were countless similar places within the deser. It was difficult for Xiao Yan to imagine that there were traces of a ‘Heavenly Flame’ in such a humble place.

Behind Xiao Yan were Xiao Ding and Xiao Li. At the same time, there were tens of elite members of the Desert Metal Mercenary Company. At the moment, however, they were all throwing suspicious gazes at Qing Lin in front of them who was leading the way. For these people who had lived in Rock Desert City for a few years or even more than a decade, this place was so extremely ordinary. Moreover, some of these people had even come here a couple of times to perform their assignment. They had never felt anything unusual here compared to other places...

Despite being the focus of everyone’s attention, Qing Lin, who was a little timid, summoned up her courage, stared at Xiao Yan and said, “Young Master, based on my senses, the unusual occurrence that happened half a year ago originated from here.”

Hearing this, Xiao Yan pressed his eyebrows together. He stood at a small sand dune, raised his head and took a look at the surrounding. His face was gloomy.

“There doesn’t seem to be any special building or strange cave. But if Qing Lin is correct... since there isn’t anything on the surface or in the sky... then, it might be here.” Xiao Ding glanced at the surrounds before suddenly squatting down. His hand grabbed some sand and slowly let it fall as he said softly.

“Big Brother, you mean... it’s underground?” Hearing this, Xiao Yan momentarily stilled as he said with a stunned voice.

“Yes, although there are many strong people who can use the twist in

the air in the desert to create mirages that can fool people's eyes, the degree of distortion in the air surrounding the Rock Desert City is insufficient to create such wonders. Thus, after eliminating this possibility... since there is no mirage concealment and since our eyes cannot see it, then the highest possibility would be that it is underground..." Xiao Ding analyzed with a smile.

Nodding his head, Xiao Yan stepped gently on the ground. He immediately smiled bitterly, "Even if the secret is underground, it is impossible for us to randomly dig around."

"Haha, we naturally cannot. If we randomly dig holes in the desert, we might end up burying ourselves alive. However, Queen Medusa was able to go down, so I guess there should be some hidden passageway." Shaking his head with another smile, Xiao Ding said, "There happens to be some experts in terrain surveyance in our company. As long as we get them to survey the area, it should not be difficult to find the passageway to go underground."

Hearing this, Xiao Yan let out a sigh. He said with a smile, "Since it is like this, then I'll have to trouble them."

"Finding the passageway is a small matter... However, this place isn't far from the Rock Desert City. If we create such a huge commotion by surveying here, I am afraid that other strengths in Rock Desert City will become aware of it. The night in the Tager Desert is very short. If we only work at night, not only does it waste a large amount of time but we might miss some important places due to the darkness... In the Rock Desert City, with our Desert Metal Mercenary Company's strength, other small strengths would not dare to offend us. But the Sand Mercenary Company... may well come out and do something." Xiao Ding shook his head, frowned and said helplessly.

"Sand Mercenary Company?" Xiao Yan frowned.

"The Sand Mercenary Company is the most powerful strength in Rock Desert City other than the city's military power. Although in terms of overall strength, our Desert Metal Mercenary Company would not lose to

them, their Company Leader, Lou Bu, is a Da Dou Shi. You should clearly know of the difference between a Da Dou Shi and a Dou Shi. Thus, if there is nothing important, we would normally not offend the Sand Mercenary Company. However, if we create a huge commotion by searching around here, it would arouse their curiosity. Under such a situation they would naturally not play the role of an observer.” Xiao Li, who was on one side, said helplessly.

Hearing this, Xiao Yan pursed his lips. He quietly thought for awhile, then raised his head to watch Xiao Ding and Xiao Li. With a smile, he said, “It’s alright. Big Brother, Second Brother, the both of you only need to worry about the search. However, please do not spread the news of the ‘Heavenly Flame’. As for the Sand Mercenary Company. if they intend to interfere... then I will handle it.”

“Hehe, all the people here have the backbone of the Desert Metal Mercenary Company. They are brothers who have followed us as we fought little by little to create this strength. The issue of keeping it a secret is no issue at all.” Xiao Li patted his chest. However, he immediately said in a worried voice, “You can handle Luo Bu from the Sand Mercenary Company? Your strength...”

“Second Brother, relax. Since I have said this, I naturally have my confidence. You just need to send people to find the passageway.” Xiao Yan smiled mysteriously.

Looking at the mysterious Xiao Yan, Xiao Ding and Xiao Li helplessly nodded their head. However, they did somewhat believe him. They knew that with Xiao Yan’s character, he would never joke around about such a situation.

“It is really getting harder to see through this little boy.” After mumbling in their hearts, Xiao Ding and Xiao Li exchanged gazes and saw the same feeling in each other’s eyes.

“Alright. Since it’s like this, Xue Lan, immediately hurry back to the Desert Metal Mercenary Company. Call all those members who specialize in surveying terrains over. We will try to find where the passageway is

within a day.” Xiao Ding turned around and ordered Xue Lan.

“Ah, yes. Leave this matter to me!” Nodding her head with a smile, Xue Lan swiftly turned around and blew a whistle from her mouth. A camel that was a short distance away came galloping over. Her pretty figure leaped beautifully onto its back before Xue Lan drove off, galloping it towards the distant Rock Desert City and leaving a trail of yellow dust along the way.

Seeing Xue Lan gradually disappear from his sight, Xiao Yan let out a gentle sigh. He slowly squatted down and extended his hand into the searing hot sand. He muttered softly, “‘Heavenly Flame’... does it really exist below?”

Not long after Xue Lan left, she brought back all the members of the Desert Metal Mercenary Company that were skilled in surveying the terrain. Soon, all of the members arrived at Xiao Yan’s and the others location. Under Xiao Ding’s order, forty terrain surveying members divided their work and began to conduct the surveyance with precision.

Being a huge strength in the Rock Desert City, there were naturally numerous gazes watching Desert Metal Mercenary Company’s every move. Not long after Xue Lan brought a large number of people out, there were a couple of wandering team who appeared close to where Xiao Yan and the others were and watched Desert Metal Mercenary Company’s actions with faces that were filled with curiosity.

The area outside Rock Desert City which had the possibility of a ‘Heavenly Flame’ hiding there was a secret already tightly sealed by the people that Xiao Ding had assembled. Thus, those mercenaries and other people who came over to observe were all mercilessly stopped outside.

Following the progress of the surveyance, the surrounding people watching also increased. Although Xiao Ding had announced that the Desert Metal Mercenary Company’s large maneuver was because it wanted to hunt for a rank three Magic Beast, the surrounding crowd continued to gradually grow larger.

Standing on a sand dune, Xiao Ding and the others watched the human

crowd. They could not resist shaking their head helplessly and bitterly smiling, "Looking at the way things progress, within half an hour, the Sand Mercenary Company will send someone over."

Xiao Li knitted his eyebrows together. His face faintly contained a cold and ruthless aura. His hand shook as a tungsten steel long spear appeared in his palm, which he violently inserted into the sand dune. With a cold voice, he said, "If they really provoke us too much, that Sand Mercenary Company can forget about living peacefully. Other than Luo Bu, all the others in the Sand Mercenary Company are softies."

Xiao Ding smiled faintly. His lowered eyes also flashed a similar cold glint.

On one side, Xiao Yan, who was seated on the sand dune, also let out a soft laugh. He lifted his delicate and handsome face and used his squinted eyes to stare at the hot sun in the sky. A cold arc appeared and disappeared from the corner of his mouth.

Sweeping her cautious gaze over the three brothers, Qing Lin suddenly realized that these three people were indeed worthy of being real brothers. Regardless of how different their characters were, there was a ruthlessness in their bones that would chill people. These kinds of people were fine if you did not provoke them. Once you did, they would be like a wounded hungry wolf in the desert who would stare intently at you, waiting for the moment when you became relaxed...

Back then, just because of the humiliation from Nanlan Yanran canceling the engagement, Xiao Yan could abandon the comfortable life in his clan, clench his teeth tightly and fight with Magic Beasts in the mountain range, bear the loneliness and isolation in the desert and endure tough training for three years. If he could he be so ruthless to himself, just think about how he's like to his enemies.

When the blazing sun in the sky began to descend, a disturbance suddenly occurred among the surrounding audience. A group of around forty mercenaries slowly split the crowd and walked over in a manner that stood out.

“It’s the Sand Mercenary Company. Looks like there will be a good show...”

“Hee hee, the Sand Mercenary Company has finally become impatient.” Seeing the mercenary company that had walked over, numerous whispers broke out among the surrounding people who were watching.

“It seems I still overestimated that guy’s patience...” Seeing the company heading over, Xiao Ding shook his head and ridiculed.

“Let’s go and take a look. Before the situation clears, Luo Bu will not appear. The one leading the company now seemed to be the one second only to Luo Bu within the Sand Mercenary Company, Mo Xing. Hehe, Someone who was once defeated by me still dares to find trouble with us.” Xiao Li coldly laughed as he gazed from a distance.

“Yes.” Xiao Ding nodded his head. He waved his hand. Around him, twenty members of the Desert Metal Mercenary Company were gathered. Thick cold weapons were held in their hands as they walked out of the blockade region and indifferently watched the small group of mercenaries walking over.

The two groups slowly met and the atmosphere between them was a little tense. Being two powerful strengths in Rock Desert City, they had quite a number of conflicts in the past.

“Halt. The Desert Metal Mercenary Company is conducting a mission here, please do not interfere.” Lifting his eyes, Xing Ding said in a calm voice as though he was conducting an official business.

“Hei, Company Leader Xiao Ding. I have never heard of the Mercenary Association announcing such a mission. Moreover, the surrounding tens of kilometers of Rock Desert City are public places. There isn’t anything wrong with me bringing people over, is there?” A man with a somewhat feminine face walked out from within the group of the Sand Mercenary Company. His gaze swept across the people inside the blocked off region as he laughed.

“Mo Xing, if it were not for Luo Bu interfering, you should have become a cripple now, no?” Xiao Li threw a glance at this man who appeared to

need a beating as he smiled with ill intentions.

With his face twitching slightly, the man called Mo Xing, swept his gaze at Xiao Li with some fear and enmity. He took a step back and coldly said, “A forthright person does not hide anything. Our Company Leader is also interested in this place, so...”

“So you can get lost...” Indifferent words suddenly spat out from the smiling Xiao Yan who was watching icily by the side.

Chapter 191: Settling the Trouble

“Who do you think you are? How dare you speak to me in this manner?” Hearing Xiao Yan’s words, Mo Xing first stilled. Soon after, he saw Xiao Yan’s young face and immediately became furious. Xiao Li and Xiao Ding were the Company Leaders of the Desert Metal Mercenary Company, so it was nothing strange for them to be rude when talking to him. However, this little boy who appeared to be only a youth actually dared to rudely scold him. How could this not cause Mo Xing to be infuriated from shame.

Just after Mo Xing’s reprimand left his mouth, Xiao Li’s expression suddenly became cold. An electric arc leapt from the tungsten steel spear that he held in his hand. He took a step forward and shot his long spear, which carried a sharp force, viciously toward Mo Xing’s throat.

Xiao Li’s sudden lethal attack caused Mo Xing’s expression to drastically change. He had not expected that the other side would be so bold. However, Xiao Li’s strength was above his own, so he could only hurriedly step back in an embarrassed manner. When he was stepping back, he suddenly sprained his ankle and fell on his butt in front of the large crowd.

“Xiao Li, you dare to attack me? Our mercenary company will not let you off!” Seeing the increasingly large silver colored tip of the spear in his eyes, a terror appeared on Mo Xing’s face as he sharply cried.

“Chi.” When the long spear was around half an inch from Mo Xing’s throat, it suddenly stopped. The sharp force it contained passed through the obstruction of the air and scratched a small bloody scar on Mo Xing’s throat. Instantly, fresh blood began flooding out.

“Who do you think you are? You dare speak to my brother in such a manner?” Watching Mo Xing who did not dare to move as he allowed the fresh blood on his throat to flow because the long spear was right next to him, Xiao Li laughed disdainfully.

Swallowing his saliva as some cold sweat formed on his forehead, Mo Xing carefully used his hands to drag himself a few steps back. He then

entered his team in a harassed manner before saying in an evil voice, “Xiao Li, you have guts. I will return and report this to the Company Leader. Prepare for trouble to descend upon your Desert Metal Mercenary Company!”

Having finished saying that, Mo Xing became afraid that the ghost like s[ear would once again be shot toward him. He let out a loud cry, hurriedly turned around and fled with his people.

Seeing the Sand Mercenary Company running away like homeless strays, the surrounding audience could not resist jeering in an orderly manner.

“Trash...” Facing the direction where Mo Xing and his men were fleeing, Xiao Li skimmed his lips in disdain. He then turned around and waved to Xiao Yan, saying, “Now that we have chased that guy away in front of so many people, we have formed an enmity with the Sand Mercenary Company. Once that Mo Xing returns, he will exaggerate in his report to Luo Bu. I’m afraid that tomorrow, the Sand Mercenary Company will gather their members and head over to snatch this place.”

Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. He lifted his head, swept his gaze around him and said softly, “Big Brother, Second Brother, the both of you only need to guard this plot of land. As for the Sand Mercenary Company, I will take care of it.”

“You... can you really do it? If you really cannot...” Xiao Ding frowned and said in a worried voice.

“Ke ke, it’s just a Da Dou Shi...” Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. He waved at the two men, pulled a camel from beside him and leaped on to it. While still smiling, he said, “Trust me. I will ensure that the Sand Mercenary Company will hide in Rock Desert City like a tortoise for this period of time.”

Having said that, Xiao Yan kicked his leg lightly. The camel kicked off a tread of yellow dust as it swiftly galloped toward the Rock Desert City.

Watching Xiao Yan gradually go further into the distance, Xiao Ding and Xiao Li exchanged glances and involuntarily shook their heads while laughing bitterly. A long while later, they helplessly said, “Forget it. Just

hope that this little boy really does possess a hidden card that we don't know about. If that really doesn't work, Sha Luo would not dare to be too arrogant given the strength of our Desert Metal Mercenary Company. After all, if we were to really fight to the death, their Sand Mercenary Company would also lose over half their strength. That loss is something they cannot withstand."

On one side, Xiao Li waved his head and said with a laugh, "I am really curious if Xiao-Yan-Zi is able to cause Sha Luo to obediently stay in Rock Desert City."

"Let's wait and see. I believe him." With a light smile, Xiao Ding whispered.

The moon in the desert hung high up in the sky like a huge silver plate. Its faint moonlight shone down, enveloping the dark night of Rock Desert City within it.

Within the western region of the Rock Desert City, was a huge courtyard that was brightly lit. From within it, there was much laughter and noises being emitted. Above the courtyard, a flag with the words 'Sand Mercenary Company' was hung on top of a wooden pole.

In the dark night, a gentle wind blew passed, blowing the flag till it was twisted toward the west. In a room at the center of the courtyard, a faint light completely expelled the darkness. There were two people inside the room. One of them was unsurprisingly the one who had conflict with Xiao Yan and the others in the afternoon, Mo Xing. The middle aged man who was seated above him was naturally the Company Leader of the Sand Mercenary Company, Luo Bu.

"Company Leader, Xiao Ding and his group are becoming more and more arrogant. Everyone knows that our Sand Mercenary Company is an old strength within the Rock Desert City. These two young brats who had just arrived a few years ago actually dared to ignore us. If we continue to let them develop, we might have no end of trouble in the future." Mo Xing licked his lips and said in a cold and sinister voice.

On the leader's seat, the middle aged man lifted his eyes, glanced at Mo

Xing below and said faintly, "Have you managed to find out what exactly are they doing there?"

"Uh... no. The people I brought with me did not have a chance to close in when we were chased out by Xiao Li and his group." With a slightly red face, Mo Xing said in an embarrassed manner.

Hearing this, the middle aged man frowned. He snorted, clearly displeased with Mo Xing's ability in handling problems.

Cold sweat appeared on Mo Xing's forehead when he heard the snort. He hurriedly said, "Company Leader, although I don't know what is their exact aim, it must definitely be something extraordinary in order for that cunning Xiao Ding to use all his effort to search. Moreover, the area where they are at is not far from the Rock Desert City. Thus, we have many excuses to step into that area."

Luo Bu nodded his head. There was still some hesitation on his face. Before he knew exactly what that thing was, he was not willing to fight with the Desert Metal Mercenary Company. He might be a Da Dou Shi, but the others in his company, other than Mo Xing who was a Dou Shi, were all weaker than a Dou Shi. On the other hand, besides Xiao Ding and Xiao Li being Dou Shi, the Desert Metal Mercenary Company had another two more two star Dou Shis. Their overall strength was much stronger than the Sand Mercenary Company. Thus, Luo Bu was also a little afraid of the Desert Metal Mercenary Company.

"Company Leader. We cannot lose this opportunity. There are far too many secrets in the desert. If Xiao Ding and the others dig up some high class Dou Technique or Qi Method left by people of the past, then the Desert Metal Mercenary Company will really be able to leap pass our Sand Mercenary Company in the future!" Seeing Luo Bu's hesitation, Mo Xing scolded silently in his heart before beginning to instigate.

"Alright..." Being pressed by Mo Xing, Luo Bu also began to become indecisive. He mused for a little longer. Finally, he could not resist but nod his head. "Gather the members tomorrow and snatch that piece of land from the Desert Metal Mercenary Company!"

Seeing that Luo Bu finally agreed, a joyful smile surfaced on Mo Xing's face. An evilness flashed across his tiny eyes.

"Ugh... Company Leader Luo Bu, your decision is really disappointing." A faint voice suddenly sounded in the room without warning.

The voice that suddenly sounded out caused the faces of the two in the room to change drastically. They turned their head suddenly and were shocked to realize that a young man dressed in black had unknowingly appeared on a chair in the corner of the room.

"Who are you?" Staring with shock at this young man who could enter the room without him noticing, Luo Bu shouted. However, his voice was bold on the outside but weak on the inside.

"Company Leader, he is the brother of Xiao Ding and Xiao Li!" Seeing Xiao Yan's face, Mo Xing took a step back and abruptly shouted.

Hearing this, Luo Bu's eyes shrunk as he stared intently at Xiao Yan. He said in a grave voice, "Young friend, is there a reason for you to visit our Sand Mercenary Company, so late in the night?"

Having seen with his own eyes the ghost like manner in which Xiao Yan appeared, Luo Bu was not foolish enough to treat him as an ignorant youth.

"Ke ke, nothing much... it is just that I wish for Company Leader Luo Bu to control your Sand Mercenary Company members during these few days and stop them from coming out to disturb my Big Brother and Second Brother conducting their business." Xiao Yan's finger gently moved on the table as he said with a laugh.

"Brat, you are too arrogant. What do you think you are?" Hearing Xiao Yan's words, Mo Xing immediately retorted angrily.

"Noisy." Lifting his eyes, Xiao Yan eyed Mo Xing behind Luo Bu. A coldness flashed across the dark black eyes. He got up, then... suddenly turned into a black shadow and passed through the obstacles in the room in a lightning like manner. An instant later, his palm gently landed on Mo Xing's back. His body leaned forward softly and whispered, "You dog

advisor. The plan that you came up with was rather evil...”

TL: Dog advisor means someone who gives bad/influenced ideas

Immediately after he said those words, a thick white flame suddenly soared from Xiao Yan’s palm. It then swiftly went into the body of Mo Xing, whose face was filled with horror. With a muffled sound, the Mo Xing who was still alive... was turned into a pile of dark black ashes in the blink of an eye.

Killing Mo Xing in an instant, Xiao Yan patted his hand and slowly moved his feet to the front of Luo Bu, whose stiffened back was facing him. He watched the perspiration filled face and involuntarily smiled.

Eyeing the smile on the young man’s face, Luo Bu’s throat rolled a little. The ghost like speed that Xiao Yan had displayed earlier had caused him to shiver. The requirement to display this kind of frightening speed and strength... was that one had to be at least a Dou Wang.

“Dou Wang...” Luo Bu stared at the delicate and handsome face of the young man in front of him. He silently mumbled in his heart. A Dou Wang that was not even twenty years old?

“Yes... the thing that I mentioned before...” Xiao Yan played with the thick white flame in his palm and asked with yet another smile.

“Gu.” Swallowing his saliva, Luo Bu wiped off the tiny cold droplets of sweat on his forehead. An ugly smile surfaced on his face as he tactfully said in a dry voice, “I will do as you says. The Sand Mercenary Company will not take even half a step into that area!”

Chapter 192: Passageway

Outside the Rock Desert City, the hot sun was shining from high above while the members of the Desert Metal Mercenary Company continued their detailed search.

“Big Brother, have you realized that there doesn’t seem to be even a single Sand Mercenary Company member around here?” Standing on the top of one of the sand dunes, Xiao Li’s gaze swept across his surroundings. A long while later, he frowned, tilted his head and told Xiao Ding beside him.

“Hehe, not only are they absent here, even in the Rock Desert City, the number of the Sand Mercenary Company members roaming around has strangely decreased by a lot. And according to my latest news... Last night, Mo Xing seemed to have died. But Luo Bu did not become furious because of this. Instead, he was so quiet that it was as if he did not know about it.” A hint of ridicule appeared in Xiao Ding’s eyes as he smiled and said, “Xiao-Yan-Zi is becoming harder and harder to see through. He gave such a treatment to the Sand Mercenary Company but was able to frighten Luo Bu until he dare not even fart. Tsk tsk, what kind of strength is needed to do this? I really don’t know how he managed to do it.”

“It really leaves one speechless. Ugh, in the few years we have not met, this guy has grown increasingly mysterious.” Xiao Li nodded his head and laughed bitterly.

Xiao Ding laughed softly. He tilted his head and his gaze swept toward a sand dune that was allocated for resting. There, Xiao Yan did not enter the tent to hide from the hot sun. Instead, he resisted the exposure to the hot sun, sat crossed legged on the searing hot sand and slowly absorbed the surrounding rich fire energy. He allowed his perspiration to fall from his forehead like flowing water, wetting his clothes.

“Back when he was young, his training talent may have been amazing but he ended up lacking toughness and perseverance because of it. I think that although the three years that he was deemed useless may have

caused him to receive disdainful looks and ridicule, it may have restored the last missing requirement needed for him to take a step into becoming a truly strong person... at the very least, the Xiao-Yan-Zi of the past would never come to the Tager Desert by himself or have the perseverance to endure such tough training.” Watching Xiao Yan who appeared unwilling to waste even a second, Xiao Ding let out praise before sighing emotionally.

“Yes.” Hearing this, Xiao Li nodded his head feeling the same. Talent was important in order to become a truly strong person but if it was not supported by untiring tenacity, the final achievement would only be average. The Dou Qi continent was very large. Naturally there were many talented people, but there were only the very few people who eventually managed to become the strong at the peak.

Thus, the time Xiao Yan spent as a useless person back then, would have the most prominent effect on Xiao Yan’s future path in becoming strong. When the time came, he might suddenly come to realize that the three years as trash was not a setback, but was a type of trial that would affect the rest of his life.

“Company Leader! Group three seemed to have found some traces of a passageway!”

Just as Xiao Ding and Xiao Li were sighing emotionally, a human figure suddenly ran over quickly from a distance while yelling excitedly.

“You found it?” Hearing the voice, Xiao Ding and Xiao Li stilled momentarily. An unrestrained joy immediately surfaced on their faces. After exchanging a glance with one another, their gazes turned to another sand dune and saw that Xiao Yan had already opened his eyes. There was both shock and surprise on his face.

Hearing the voice, Xiao Yan was briefly at a loss. He then hurriedly left his training mode, patted the yellow sand off his body and hurried over to the human figure who was still running over. He quickly asked, “Have you discovered a passageway?”

“Hee hee, it seems like a little trace was discovered. Based on our

experience, there is a big possibility that it is a passageway that leads into the ground.” The mercenary Company opened his mouth and grinned as he said.

“Good!” Clapping his palms together with great force, Xiao Yan anxiously urged, “Go. Hurry, bring me over to take a look!”

“Alright.” The mercenary’s gaze swept toward Xiao Ding and Xiao Li who were hurrying over, nodded his head with a smile and hurriedly turned around to lead the way.

Following the mercenary, they broke into a short run toward the north for a few minutes. There was a huge crowd there that was surrounding a slightly depressed sand ground while they whispered among themselves.

“Move aside! Move aside!” The mercenary leading the way shouted, forcing open a route. Xiao Yan followed him in and was surprised to find that the concave ground here had half a meter wide hole that was dug out by the mercenaries at the center. His eyes glanced into the hole and found that it was pitch-black. There was also a faint hot air that was rising from within.

“Is this it?” Xiao Yan pointed toward the dark hole, asking everyone around him.

“Haha. Yes. This hole was originally blocked by yellow sand. If Qing Lin had not sensed that there was a strange Qi remaining here, I’m afraid that it would have otherwise been difficult for us to discover.” One of the mercenary’s laughed as he replied.

Hearing this, Xiao Yan gazed toward Qing Lin opposite him. He realized that the little girl had yellow sand stuck to her hair. However, her exquisite small face contained happiness.

Sensing that Xiao Yan’s gaze had looked over, Qing Lin’s eyes met him. Her small face was shy as she blinked at Xiao Yan.

“Haha, little girl, beautifully done!” Xiao Yan raised his thumb at Qing Lin. Seeing that a brilliant smile surfaced on the little girl’s face as a result, Xiao Yan gave a gentle smile. He slowly came to the pitch-black entrance

and flipped his hand. A Moonlight Rock appeared in his hand, which he threw into the hole.

The faint light emitted from the Moonlight Rock rolled about in the pitch-black cave a couple of times before it gradually and completely disappeared.

Seeing the swiftly disappearance of the Moonlight Rock, Xiao Yan frowned and said softly "Looks like this tunnel isn't a straight line."

"Yes. We did an initial survey earlier. There are at least more than ten tunnels and each of them bend and turn all over, much like a huge serpent climbed through." The mercenary who had led the way smiled bitterly and replied.

"Hmm..." Xiao Yan frowned, feeling a little vexed.

"Why don't I send people to search the tunnels one at a time?" Xiao Ding's laughing voice suddenly came from behind.

Turning around, Xiao Yan eyed both Xiao Ding and Xiao Li before shaking his head as he said, "There may be some unknown danger below. The Desert Metal Mercenary Company has already mobilized so many people to help me locate the tunnel. I am already very satisfied. If I still let them enter, they may end up meeting something that injures or kills them. It would be a situation that I do not wish to see."

"Ke ke, Brother Xiao Yan, you need not worry. Our Desert Metal Mercenary Company does not have anyone who is afraid of death." The surrounding members of the Desert Metal Mercenary Company laughed out loud.

"Why don't we do it this way. I will pick over ten members who are quite strong and accompany you down to take a look. After all, I would be worried if I let you go down alone. If any accident were to happen, I'm afraid that our furious Father would directly hurry over from Wu Tan City and slaughter us." Xiao Ding mused for a while before laughing softly.

Hearing this, Xiao Yan hesitated for a moment. He could only helplessly nod his head. After thinking silently for a moment, he said gravely, "But if

we meet any sudden situation below, I hope that Big Brother can lead everyone and retreat first. As for my safety, you don't need to worry..."

Seeing Xiao Yan's serious expression, Xiao Ding and Xiao Li exchanged a glance and nodded. After Xiao Yan had solved the problem with the Sand Mercenary Company last night, they no longer doubted the strength that he hid.

"That... Young Master... in the tunnel below, there is still the Qi from half a year ago still remaining. I think that I should be able to lead you to find the right tunnel." Just as Xiao Yan was prepared to move, Qing Lin's timid voice suddenly caused his eyebrows to lift in surprise.

"Really?" Swiftly tilting his head, Xiao Yan gazed at Qing Lin who was as cute as a porcelain doll and said happily.

"Yes." Seeing Xiao Yan's happiness, Qing Lin covered her mouth and laughed as she nodded.

What a useful little girl. Ha ha." Leaping over the hole, Xiao Yan patted Qing Lin's small head. He faced Xiao Ding and Xiao Li and asked with a smile "Since it's like that, shall we start?"

"Haha, alright." Xiao Ding smiled and nodded. His gaze swept around him before he swiftly said a few names. After which, he faced the rest and gravely ordered, "Once we enter the tunnel, increase the defense around it. You must definitely not allow anyone to come and create trouble. This kind of sand structure isn't very stable. If one isn't careful, a cave-in might occur and bury the people inside it alive..."

"Company Leader, you can be reassured that if anyone dares to enter this region during this period of time, we will be ruthless regardless of who they are!" Hearing Xiao Ding's order, the surrounding members of the Desert Metal Mercenary Company had their faces covered with fierceness as they cried in union.

"As for you Second Brother. you will need to direct the situation up here once we go down. If we don't put someone to take control of the situation above, I would feel a little uncertain." After issuing his orders, Xiao Ding still felt a little insecure, thus he once again tilted his head to Xiao Li and

spoke.

Hearing this, Xiao Li, who had originally intended to follow, could only helplessly nod his head.

Once he had everything arranged appropriately, Xiao Ding took out a large bundle of rope from one side. He tested the degree of toughness and then tied it to a wooden pillar that had been already fixed properly. At the same time, he threw the rope into the hole.

“The tunnel is not too precipitous. This rope is meant as an insurance. If the people below were to shout, the people above can use the rope to quickly pull us up.” Xiao Ding said as he patted his hand.

Seeing that Xiao Ding had even carefully thought of this, Xiao Yan smiled bitterly. He took the lead to arrive at the entrance of the tunnel, tilted his head and waved to Qing Lin by his side.

Noticing Xiao Yan’s action, Qing Lin hurriedly ran over. A pair of strange dark green eyes stared intelligently at Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan swept his gaze roughly at the dark green eyes and sighed emotionally in his heart. He then extended his hand and pulled Qing Lin into his chest under her stunned face. With a smile, he said, “Later on, you will point out the way.”

Being hugged by Xiao Yan, Qing Lin’s face gradually became crimson. She lowered her small face and gently nodded her head.

“Everyone, let us move!” With a soft laugh, Xiao Yan nodded toward Xiao Ding, grabbed the rope and jumped into the pitch-black hole.

“‘Heavenly Flame’... does it really exist below? I hope it won’t disappoint me...” Xiao Yan muttered softly as his body quickly glided over the tunnel while tightly hugging Qing Lin to his chest.

Chapter 193: Probing

Within the pitch-black tunnel, Xiao Yan hugged Qing Lin tightly as they used the incline of the tunnel to continue descending. In Qing Lin's hand was a Moonlight Stone. It emitted a gentle and faint light, allowing Xiao Yan to see if the route in front had any obstructions.

Not far behind the two of them, over ten faint lights closely followed. Everyone had their backs leaning against the tunnel's wall which created a 'chi chi' sound that reverberated within the tunnel.

As his body was descending, Xiao Yan's gaze swept across the two tunnel walls by the side. A long while later, he was somewhat stunned to realize that the tunnel was extremely smooth. There were no rocks protruding from the wall. Looking at the tunnel, it would seem that it was created by some enormous pillar of energy that charged directly through the ground.

After two to three minutes of descending at the same speed, Xiao Yan finally saw the bottom of the tunnel. His legs bent slightly and a moment later, his bent body reached the ground, releasing a soft muffled sound. As his body straightened, he completely nullified the reverse force from his descent.

After landing on the ground, Xiao Yan released Qing Lin from his embrace. He pulled her, took a few steps forward and swept his gaze over the tunnels in front of him. As expected, he found over ten completely dark tunnels.

Shaking his head helplessly, Xiao Yan smiled and said to Qing Lin, "You should try and sense for the right tunnel. It would require at least a few days before we could complete the search if we were to walk down each tunnel."

"Yes." Nodding her head, Qing Lin's small hand pulled Xiao Yan. Her eyes blinked and the three tiny green colored spots around her dark green pupils had quietly appeared.

Due to the dim light in the tunnel, Xiao Yan was unable to sense the

change in Qing Lin's eyes.

Qing Lin slowly closed her eyes and sensed the Qi in the tunnels. The surroundings once again became quiet. A moment later, waves of soft muffled noises came from behind; and Xiao Yan knew that Xiao Ding and the others had caught up.

Tilting his head, Xiao Yan gestured to Xiao Ding and the others to keep quiet and then pointed to the closed eyed Qing Lin.

Seeing Xiao Yan's action, Xiao Ding nodded his head. He made a hand signal and caused the people who had landed behind him to swallow their inquiry understandingly.

Placing the rope in his hand properly, Xiao Ding and the other members of the Desert Metal Mercenary Company slowly drew their weapons. After which, they quietly stepped forward, surrounded and protected Xiao Yan and Qing Lin in the middle. Their cautious gazes continued to sweep their surroundings.

The silence lasted for awhile before Qing Lin finally opened her dark green eyes in a gradual manner. Her small hand pointed to a tunnel that was slightly to their left and said softly, "Young Master, although the other tunnels also had some remnants of the Qi, this tunnel has the densest one. Looks like whoever was here spent the longest time there half a year ago."

Hearing this, Xiao Yan's gaze swept toward the completely dark tunnel. This tunnel was clearly extremely long. When his gaze looked over, there was only a profound darkness. Xiao Yan could not help but frown when he noticed this situation.

Tilting his head, Xiao Yan and Xiao Ding exchanged glances. The former then let out a gentle breath and was about to take the lead when he was stopped by Xiao Ding.

"Wait a moment..." Xiao Ding shook his head towards Xiao Yan. After which, he turned around and softly said to a large man with a sturdy figure, "Han Mu, can you probe a little to see if this tunnel has anything unusual hidden within."

“Yes.” Hearing this, the large man called Han Mu nodded his head. He walked toward the front of the pitch-black tunnel and bent over on the floor. The side of his face touched the floor while his pair of hands were violently inserted into the sands surface.

“This is?” Seeing Han Mu’s strange action, Xiao Yan could not help but ask in surprise.

“Han Mu’s affinity is a variation of the ground element: the sand element... Thus, he can use the help from the sand in the desert to feel some hidden Qis that other people may have difficulty sensing.” Mu Ding explained.

“In this kind of unknown place, we must be extremely careful. Randomly charging around is not a wise move.”

“Haha, there’s really quite a number of unique people in the Desert Metal Mercenary Company. This kind of group cooperation is naturally much better than me randomly searching.” Xiao Yan smiled before sighing.

“It’s only some small tricks to survive.” Xiao Ding carelessly shook his head. He then raised it and looked at the large man who had finished his probing. “How is it?”

“The probing isn’t complete...” Han Mu frowned and shook his head. He smiled bitterly. “I have probed around a distance of five hundred meters but did not find any hidden Qi. Just as I was planning to continue a little deeper, however, I found that the ground type energy had completely disappeared. Replacing it was an extremely hot fire type energy. In that kind of environment, my probing became useless.”

“The ground type energy had disappeared?” Hearing this, Xiao Yan and Xiao Ding were shocked. The area deep under the desert should be where the ground type energy was the richest. How could it completely disappear?

“Looks like there is something strange inside.” Xiao Yan softly muttered. A hot flame jumped into his dark black eyes. The stranger this place was, the greater the chances of it possessing a ‘Heavenly Flame’. For Xiao Yan

who had been having a hard time searching for the 'Heavenly Flame', this was undoubtedly an exciting and good piece of news.

Seeing Xiao Yan's manner, Xiao Ding helplessly shook his head. He ended up swallowing some words of caution that he wanted to say.

"Let's go in and take a look. If we see something wrong, I suggest that we retreat first and then do some proper planning. After all, we already know that the place is here. As long as we spend some time, we should be able to achieve our target." Xiao Ding said gravely.

Xiao Yan smiled. He gently touched the Heavy Xuan Ruler on his back and sighed. After placing Qing Lin behind him, he took the lead and walked into this dark tunnel.

Walking into the completely dark tunnel, Xiao Yan felt that his body was a little cold. He licked his lips and swept his squinted eyes across the sleek tunnel walls. His finger rubbed across his storage ring and an 'Energy Recovery Pill' was swiftly placed into his mouth. This kind of action had almost become a habit of Xiao Yan's before he did anything. After all, it was difficult to say when that little bit of Dou Qi would have the ability to determine if he lived or died.

"Remember, place a Moonlight Stone on the tunnel wall at every fifty meter mark..." Xiao Ding, who was behind Xiao Yan, softly ordered the members of the Desert Metal Mercenary Company. In front of him, Xiao Yan involuntarily clicked his tongue. His elder brother covered all aspects when he did things, making sure of any small details.

More than ten human figures, with the help of the light from the Moonlight Stones, slowly walked within the pitch-black tunnel. As they were unsure of what kind of dangers there were, everyone maintained an unusual silence. Throughout the journey, other than the faint rustling of their footsteps, everything was quiet.

Within the tunnel which was quite dark, no one had any sense of time. Everyone simply continued to progress in a somewhat stiff manner. As for the tunnel, it appeared as though it was never ending and no one could see the light at the end. This kind of scene... was as though they were

continuously walking toward the center of the world...

As they began to go deeper into the tunnel, Xiao Yan suddenly felt the coldness that was covering his body abruptly disappear. Replacing it was a faint warmth.

Feeling this change, Xiao Yan's footsteps gradually paused. He tilted his head to look at Xiao Ding and others. Seeing the shock on their faces, he gently licked his lips and said softly, "It's not that the ground type energy has disappeared. Rather it is that the fire type energy is too dense that it suppresses the ground type energy to the point where it is very hard to sense..."

"We had only just entered the region of the fire type energy, yet it is already so dense. If we continue ahead, just how terrifying will it be? Don't tell me that under this place there really is the existence of a 'Heavenly Flame'?" Xiao Ding said in an astonished voice.

Xiao Yan pursed up his lips. A flame of desire rose within his eyes. 'Heavenly Flame'. This was a natural wonderous thing that he had dreamed about ever since he had began training 'Flame Mantra'. Now, it was about to appear in front of him. This kind of sudden feeling of anticipation almost caused Xiao Yan to tremble in excitement...

"Let's go. Continue to descend. Everyone, if you cannot withstand the grilling from the surrounding fire type energy, then please stop. Otherwise if you were to continue going down, you might be burnt to ashes..." Xiao Yan took in a deep breath, turned around and said seriously.

"Yes." Seeing the serious expression on Xiao Yan's face, no one dared take his words lightly. They immediately nodded their heads in response.

"Qing Lin, if you feel that you cannot endure any longer, then do as I have said. Do you understand?" Lowering his head, Xiao Yan told Qing Lin gravely.

"Yes." Qing Lin nodded her head obediently, Looking at the expression on Qing Lin's small face, it appeared that the surrounding hot fire type energy wasn't displeasing her.

Once he had given the appropriate orders, Xiao Yan tightened his fist and strode toward the inner regions of the increasingly deep tunnel.

On the remaining part of the journey, the surrounding fire type energy grew increasingly dense as everyone went deeper. A few members who were a little weaker began to be unable to tolerate the high temperature and helplessly chose to withdraw.

Although there were some who pulled back, the descent continued. At the very end, only Xiao Yan, Xiao Ding, and Qing Lin endured and pushed forward. The rest all pulled out when they could not withstand the increasingly irritable fire type energy.

As they went deeper, Xiao Yan's expression also grew increasingly serious. Besides being serious, there was a faint unrestrained joy. This was because he could feel that the circulating routes of the 'Flame Mantra' in his body had automatically began to quickly circulate with the Purple Flame Dou Qi without any control from him. This was the first time such a thing happened since he had begun training.

"We're almost there..." After taking a turn around another corner, a red colored light appeared at the end of the tunnel a short distance away. Seeing this, Xiao Yan's body shivered excitedly. He wiped off the perspiration on his face. His voice was hoarse as he said dryly.

The three people increased their speed for the final stretch. They swiftly passed through this short route and finally arrived at the end of the tunnel.

Standing at the end of the tunnel, the three of them watched the fiery, red world in front of them with their faces filled... with shock...

Chapter 194: The Mysterious Creature In The Magma

Fiery red magma was slowly flowing within the enormous crypt. Occasionally, there would be huge bubbles of air floating out from within it. A moment later, there would be a soft 'bang' as the bubbles burst apart. The hot magma would shoot out from within, appearing as beautiful as a fiery, red firework.

Standing at the end of the small tunnel, Xiao Yan, Xiao Ding, and Qing Lan stared at the never ending magma world. Other than being shocked, they all involuntarily swallowed their saliva.

"I didn't expect... that hidden under Rock Desert City, there would be such a terrifying place." With a layer of dark green colored light on his body, Xiao Ding wiped the perspiration from his face and sighed with shock.

"Yes, what a majestic underground magma world..." Xiao Yan's body was similarly covered by a layer of a Dou Qi cloak. Despite this, the surrounding temperature also caused his entire body to feel hot.

"Where do we go now? There isn't any path left. Moreover, I trained using a wood type Qi Method, which is subdued by the fire type energy. If I did not possess the strength of a five star Dou Shi, I think that I wouldn't have been able to reach here. However... this is my limit." Xiao Ding smiled bitterly at Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan nodded his head. If his affinity was not of the fire element, he would not have been able to endure being grilled by the high temperature and would have given up. Moreover, ever since they had arrived at the dead end, Xiao Yan clearly realized that the fire type energy here was hotter and wilder than how it was in the tunnel.

"Hu..." Exhaling gently, Xiao Yan lowered his head and watched Qing Lin who had been following behind him. He could not help but become stunned. Compared to the perspiration filled faces of Xiao Yan and Xiao

Ding, Qing Lin appeared much more relaxed. It should be known that Qing Lin did not possess much strength and was quite weak.

After calming his heart, Xiao Yan, who was staring intently at Qing Lin, could feel that the latter's body was emitting a never ending amount of chilling energy. It was largely due to this energy that Qing Lin could continue following them until the end of the tunnel.

"This girl really does have some strange points. Was this due to the Snake-People bloodline in her? But even if a true Snake-Person were to arrive at such a place, they would also wail and choose to withdraw." Xiao Yan knitted his eyebrows together, feeling some suspicion in his heart.

"What do you want to do now?" Xiao Ding stared at the rolling magma world before tilting his head and asking.

"I want to go in and take a look..." Xiao Yan mused for awhile before whispering.

"Go in? Entering that magma? There isn't any path left. Don't tell me you want to swim over?" Hearing the words, Xiao Ding's expression changed as he reproved slightly.

"Haha. Naturally it is not possible to swim over. With the temperature here, even steel would melt, much less me," Xiao Yan smiled and shook his head. He removed the Heavy Xuan Ruler from his back and stored it in the storage ring. His body trembled slightly and the Purple Cloud Wings shot out from his back.

"This is? ..." Eyeing the pair of wings that had suddenly popped out of Xiao Yan's back, Xiao Ding's eyes narrowed. An instant later, he exclaimed in shock, "Dou Qi transformation wings? Dou Wang? How is this possible?"

Even though Xiao Ding was extremely confident about Xiao Yan's training talent, he would never believe that Xiao Yan would be able to become a Dou Wang before he was even twenty. It should be known that the total number of Dou Wangs in the Jia Ma Empire would not exceed twenty. Those were also well known strong people that had many stories; he had never heard of anyone who had achieved such an achievement

before they were twenty.

Seeing Xiao Ding's shocked expression, Xiao Yan smiled and shook his head. His palm gently touched the Purple Cloud Wings as he said with a smile "This is not a Dou Qi transformation wing. It is but a very rare flying type Dou Techniques. The flying speed is far inferior to a true pair of wings agglomerated from Dou Qi. However... it can at least fly."

Hearing Xiao Yan's explanation, Xiao Ding heaved a sigh of relief. Staring at Xiao Yan with a somewhat strange gaze, he said, "You little boy. Just how many secrets are you hiding?"

Xiao Yan smiled, shook his head and changed the topic. "Later, I will independently go in and take a look. Big Brother, you should bring Qing Lin along and take the same path back."

"Wait. Even if you have the help of this pair of wings, the temperature in this crypt is also extremely terrifying. With your strength, how can you withstand it for a very long time?" Xiao Ding cautiously said as he extended his hand to halt Xiao Yan.

"Haha. Believe me. Nothing will happen." Xiao Yan laughed softly and said.

Xiao Ding frowned and stared intently at Xiao Yan. A long while later, he helplessly nodded and said, "Be careful. If there are any changes, hurry out."

"Yes." Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. He was just about to turn his body around and take action when an icy cold small hand suddenly pulled at him.

"Young Master, wait... there seems to be something in the magma!"

Qing Lin hurriedly said as she grabbed Xiao Yan tightly. Her dark green eyes stared at the never ending fiery red magma.

"What?" Hearing this, Xiao Yan and Xiao Ding beside him were startled. They immediately swept their eyes hurriedly over the magma but did not discover anything other than a few huge rocks.

“Qing Lin, what did you sense?” In such a dangerous place, Xiao Yan did not dare to be careless even though he had Yao Lao to protect him. He immediately inquired seriously.

“Within the magma, there seems to be something existing. I can sense its small veiled Qi... it is very strong...” Qing Lin’s gaze was totally focused as she stared deep into the repeatedly rolling magma. A glow surfaced in her deep green eyes. It was as though she had passed through the obstruction of the magma and was seeing the mysterious thing hidden under it.

“There’s a living creature?” Xiao Yan’s face was shocked. There was actually a living creature under this magma which was so hot that it could melt steel? This was something that Xiao Yan had difficulty believing.

“Yes.”

“Is this the Qi that you sensed half a year ago?” Xiao Ding asked in a deep voice while frowning as he watched the rolling bubbles in the flowing magma.

“No... that Qi was even stronger than this one.” Qing Lin shook her head and said.

“Its strength is slightly greater than Luo Bu from the Sand Mercenary Company.” Qing Lin gestured with her small hand as she softly said. She had lived her entire life within the Rock Desert City. The strongest person she had seen was Luo Bu at the Da Dou Shi level. Thus, she could only use him as a reference of comparison.

“Slightly stronger than Luo Bu...” Xiao Yan mumbled. His voice was a little heavier on the word ‘slightly’. From this kind of comparison by Qing Lin, Xiao Yan could roughly guess the strength of the thing that was hiding in the magma. Back then, that mysterious Qi was at least above that of a Dou Wang. Thus, Qing Lin described Luo Bu as being much, much weaker than it. According to this reasoning, the living creature in the magma should have the strength of a Dou Ling or more...

Of course, this was Xiao Yan’s guess. Whether he was right or not, even he was not too certain. If there really was a living creature that could live

within the magma, then it's strength in this environment would be on par with a Dou Wang!

"Hu..." Xiao Yan narrowed his eyes and exhaled his breath. He mused for a moment before he shook his head helplessly. With a grave voice, he said, "Regardless of whether there is something hiding underneath, I must go in and take a look. The thing I need should be in this magma."

"Big Brother, leave with Qing Lin. I will give it a try!" Turning his head around, Xiao Yan gave his request to Xiao Ding. Without waiting for a response, his body leaped off the cliff toward the magma below. The pair of wings flapped and his body gradually floated over ten meters above the magma.

Seeing Xiao Yan flying in midair, Xiao Ding could only helplessly nod his head. However, he remained worried and did not immediately leave. Instead, he pulled Qing Lin back into the tunnel while his gaze stared intently at Xiao Yan's body flying above the magma.

Xiao Yan slowly flew above the magma. The Purple Flame Dou Qi encased the entire surface of his body within it. His Spiritual Perception also passed through his body and spread out as Xiao Yan cautiously scanned his surroundings. It appeared that the hidden living creature that Qing Lin had mentioned gave Xiao Yan quite a bit of pressure. In this kind of harsh environment, he really had to focus his attention to handle the different kinds of dangers that could suddenly occur.

Within the crypt, the temperature was extremely terrifying. Xiao Yan's body was of the fire affinity and he had support from the Purple Flame Dou Qi, but the faint fog that was emitted from the bubbles in the magma were both hot and accompanied by a type of fire poison. Thus, even though Xiao Yan had taken an antidote earlier, he still did not dare to carelessly breathe in the surrounding air. Only when he reached his limit did he carefully let some air in to breathe.

Xiao Yan may have only breathed in a small amount of air each time but the poison air that entered his body still caused his mind to feel giddy. If he had not taken an antidote earlier, he might not have been able to

endure it and would have fallen into the hot magma.

Due to the many obstacles present, Xiao Yan did not dare fly very quickly. He hovered above the magma and slowly swept his gaze across it. Naturally, he did not dare make even the slightest noise as he flew, fearing that he may end up attracting an attack from the mysterious living creature in the magma.

As he flew through the air, Xiao Yan increasingly felt that the crypt was huge. The surrounding flow of magma had already aggregated here to form an enormous magma lake. Occasionally, with a hot wave of air surging upwards, a fiery red magma pillar would suddenly shoot up. Each time this happened, it would frighten Xiao Yan greatly who was flying above.

The lava world in the crypt was a world of death. Xiao Yan flew above the magma lake. Each time he flew for a short distance, he would feel his heart quiver. If his Dou Qi suddenly became exhausted here... he might not even have a corpse remaining to tell the tale.

As Xiao Yan flew above the magma, his skin glowed faintly red. The clothes on his body also became particularly dry. If there were a spark now, his clothes would immediately combust.

After flying forward for some distance, Xiao Yan turned his head back slightly. He realized that the already small exit had already become even smaller. At the exit of the crypt, two tiny figures were staring intently at him.

Seeing the two figures, Xiao Yan helplessly shook his head. He was about to wave his hand to show that he was fine when Qing Lin's sharp voice suddenly screamed, "Young Master! It is following you! Hurry back here!" Hearing the sharp scream, Xiao Yan felt his head prickle. His body did not hesitate and changed directions in an instant. Flapping his pair of wings, he flew with all his might toward the tunnel exit.

Just as Xiao Yan's body moved, the calm magma lake under him suddenly let out a muffled sound. Numerous beams of hot magma violently shot out in an instant.

As the magma was flying in all directions, a mysterious living creature with a huge body suddenly burst fiercely out from the magma. In a lightning like manner, it turned its body toward the fleeing Xiao Yan and bit at him.

Chapter 195: Attacked

The mysterious living creature broke out from the magma and let out a sharp neigh. It shot explosively toward Xiao Yan in mid air, sending magma flying randomly around. The calm magma lake had suddenly become irritable. Numerous magma flame pillars shot up, giving off a very majestic scene.

In the sky, Xiao Yan's wings swiftly flapped. The sudden surging magma lake had also caused the skin on his head to turn numb. He clenched his teeth tightly as he fled with all his might.

With the help of the Purple Cloud Wings, Xiao Yan's speed was very fast. However, the mysterious creature's speed did not lose to his. As the neighing sound disappeared, it took off at a speed faster than expected for its size. It gradually caught up with Xiao Yan, opened its huge mouth sinisterly and shot out three fork like bright red tongue like sharp arrows.

"Young Master. Be careful. It is behind you!" At the tunnel's exit, Qing Lin screamed with a sharp voice as she stared at the huge living creature which was gradually catching up with Xiao Yan. Her face was filled with shock.

By her side, Xiao Ding's face was covered with anxiety. He wanted to go and help but he was unable to go over. All he could do was pace up and down anxiously in the tunnel.

Upon hearing Qing Lin's sharp scream, the fast flying Xiao Yan felt the skin on his body tighten. At the same time, a hot force was shot from behind him.

Xiao Yan's throat rolled a little. He did not even have the time to turn around. As he flapped his Purple Cloud Wings, his feet kicked heavily on a huge rock pillar beside him that was hanging from the ceiling and shouted, "Explosive Step!" Following his voice, Xiao Yan's body folded into a bow shape. With a 'Chi La' sound, Xiao Yan's clothes tightly stuck to his skin as his body tightened and instantly shot out like an arrow leaving a bow. His speed abruptly increased.

Borrowing the force from the 'Explosive Step', Xiao Yan avoided the lethal blow from the mysterious living creature behind him by luck. At the same time, he extended the distance between them by a little.

"Hiss!" Seeing that its prey, that was about to reach its mouth, had escaped, the mysterious living creature let out a furious hiss. Its huge tail violently swung outwards. Instantly, the tough rock pillars that had been struck by hot magma countless times before, exploded.

When the rock pillar exploded, countless rocks rained down. The mysterious living creature's tail continued to violently swing around. Any rock fragment that came into contact with the tail became like a cannonball that had just been released, viciously and angrily shooting toward the fleeing Xiao Yan.

The waves of exploding noise that sounded from behind him caused Xiao Yan, who had just become a little relaxed, to become anxious again. His Spiritual Perception left his body and surrounded the area a few meters around him. His body then began to twist and turn in a strange manner.

"Chi. Chi..." Numerous rock fragments with sharp edges carried a sharp piercing sound as they continued to pass by Xiao Yan's skin. Xiao Yan continued to narrowly dodge the repeated attacks from these rock fragments. However when they narrowly passed by his body, the sharp force with the rocks left numerous red colored marks on Xiao Yan's body.

"Bang!" Some of the rock fragments that missed continued to shoot forward for some distance before they smashed against other hard magma hardened rocks. Instantly, the fragments exploded, leaving behind numerous cracked lines on the hard rocks, revealing just how frightening the force contained in them was. If Xiao Yan was struck by one because he was inattentive, he might lose his fighting ability on the spot and plunge into the magma, turning to ashes in moments.

Seeing the numerous crack lines on the magma enforced rocks, cold sweat involuntarily appeared on Xiao Yan's forehead. If he had not trained his dodging ability on the wooden pillars Yao Lao had specially set in

place within the Magic Beast Mountain Range, he might really have had to stay here forever...

“This thing actually knows how to use other objects to attack. Clearly its intellect isn’t low. Dammit...” A thought flashed quickly in his heart. Just as Xiao Yan felt that things were becoming troublesome, his feet stomped violently on another rock pillar. His speed once again increased drastically.

With the distance gained from his increased speed, Xiao Yan turned his head around with great difficulty. His gaze was focused intently on the mysterious creature not far behind him and could not help but take in a breath of cool air...

This mysterious living creature that had suddenly come out of the magma was a Magic Beast with a serpent like shape. Its body was extremely long. With a rough glance, it appeared to be at least forty to fifty feet long and its entire body was fiery red. Looking from a distance, it seemed like a round fire jade. Its entire body was covered with palm-sized, red colored scales. What shocked Xiao Yan most was that the beast had two heads... branching out from the long neck region. The two sinister heads had huge rhombus shaped eyes which were filled with wildness and a bloodthirsty killing intent.

“What a strange thing. Just what kind of Magic Beast is this?” A terrifying thought flashed in his heart. Xiao Yan noticed that the two headed snake suddenly slowed down. Their neck area appeared to be gradually swelling, it seemed like they intended to spit something out.

Seeing this strange scene, Xiao Yan felt uneasy in his heart. He immediately flapped his pair of wings and swiftly halted his forward motion and shot his body upwards.

Just as Xiao Yan’s body shot upwards, the two-headed snake behind him sinisterly opened their mouths. Two huge magma pillars that were formed from magma and flame were suddenly spat out like a volcanic eruption. Instantly two turbulent magma columns viciously shot toward Xiao Yan.

“Bang!” One of the flame column attacks savagely swept passed two

meters under Xiao Yan. The high temperature that it contained burnt a section of Xiao Yan's pants. The burning sensation that was emitted from his skin caused him to take in a breath of cool air.

One of the flame columns might have missed but the other passed through midair in a lightning like manner, leaving a crimson colored flame trail while carrying a destructive force as it was about to violently knocked into Xiao Yan.

At the tunnel exit a distance away, Xiao Ding and Qing Lin wore frightened expressions as they watched Xiao Yan who was about to be swallowed by the flame column.

The high temperature that suddenly appeared behind him immediately burnt the clothes on Xiao Yan's back into ashes. His originally slightly black skin had turned totally red.

"Dammit..." The sudden hot temperature behind him grilled Xiao Yan's mind till he was giddy. He flapped his pair of wings with all his might as the corner of his eyes drifted behind him. He was appalled to find that the huge magma pillar had completely surrounded the area a few meters around him. In the short amount of time, it was impossible to escape from the region that the flame column covered.

"Teacher, if you don't do anything, I will really die!" The destructive attack near him caused Xiao Yan's eyes to shrink into the size of a pin-hole. After failing to escape despite using all his strength, he could only roar hastily in his heart.

"Haha, have you finally reached your limit?" An old teasing laughter sounded from within Xiao Yan's heart.

At the moment when the old laughter sounded, a strange energy suddenly poured into the Purple Cloud Wings on Xiao Yan's back. Following a soft muffled sound, some purple colored lines faintly surfaced on the Purple Cloud Wings. The pair of wings flapped following a 'Chi La' sound and Xiao Yan's body bypassed the resistance of the air. Like a small fish swimming in a lake, he shot out of the boundary covered by the flame column in a lightning like manner...

The huge magma flame column attack missed and shot heavily into the magma lake. Instantly, an explosion sounded and the entire place began to shake.

When the huge magma flame column entered the magma lake, it performed a sort of catalytic function. An uncountable number of huge magma pillars repeatedly shot out from the calm lake surface as many banging muffled noises sounded.

This extremely frightening scene was somewhat reminiscent of hell's inferno.

Standing within the tunnel, Xiao Ding and Qing Lin watched the magma world which had suddenly turned extremely wild. In their shock, they involuntarily swallowed their saliva. In front of this enormous natural disaster, the strength of a human seemed to appear extremely small...

"No wonder the 'Heavenly Flame' is so rare and difficult to obtain. Obtaining the 'Heavenly Flame' from this place that can be called a place of absolute death is something that is as difficult as climbing to the heavens," Xiao Ding muttered.

"Bang!" Just as the two people were staring with stunned expressions. A magma pillar suddenly shot into the sky from the magma lake and landed a short distance from the tunnel. The hot magma splashed and rained in all directions.

Seeing the spraying magma, Xiao Ding hurriedly pulled Qing Lin and hurriedly retreated for some distance before they managed to avoid the hot droplets of magma.

"How is Xiao-Yan-Zi? Where's he?" Standing in the tunnel, Xiao Ding said in an extremely anxious voice the instant his sight was completely blocked by the exploding magma.

Beside him. Qing Lin's small face was also pale. Her utterly helpless manner appeared extremely timid and anxious.

Just as the two of them were anxious to the point of being mad, a human figure suddenly shot out from the magma lake and swerved about

recklessly into magma pillars.

Seeing the human figure directly knock a path through countless magma pillars, Xiao Ding felt a little shock in his heart as he rejoiced. His brother was actually able to ignore the high temperature of the magma? Was this not a little too terrifying?

After rushing through the last magma pillar, the human figure, whose body was entirely covered in purple colored Dou Qi, finally charged into the tunnel. His palm held the wall as he continued to pant out the coarse air. In a hoarse voice, he said, "Damnit. That thing is too frightening..."

At that moment, the clothes on Xiao Yan had already been burnt until they became stripes in dire condition. His skin was also entirely red. His black colored hair had also become a little brown.

TL: Hair protected by Qi is op

"Are you alright?" Seeing Xiao Yan repeatedly panting out coarse air, Xiao Ding sighed in relief before hurriedly asking.

Xiao Yan smiled bitterly as he nodded. Leaning his back onto the tunnel wall, he slowly sat down. His gaze focused onto the lake. Perhaps it was because it had lost its target but the two-headed snake merely swam slowly on the magma's surface. Its four huge chestnut eyes continued to scan its surrounding. Due to the cover given by the magma filled air, its search was futile. All it could do was hiss angrily. Its huge tail swung around wildly, causing the magma lake to repeatedly seeth and surge.

Chapter 196: Two-Headed Flame Spirit Serpent

“What do we do now? With this creature guarding, you don’t have a chance to enter.” Sitting beside Xiao Yan, Xiao Ding asked with a bitter smile.

Xiao Yan sighed gently. He placed an ‘Energy Recovery Pill’ into his mouth. His throat rolled as he swallowed it. After musing for awhile, he said softly, “Regardless of what happens, I must get my hands on this ‘Heavenly Flame’. I know how difficult it is to obtain a ‘Heavenly Flame’ so I’m already mentally prepared. The difficulty now does not exceed the level which I can bare.”

“You still want to try? Seeing the attacking strength of that two-headed snake, its strength should be around that of a rank four Magic Beast, which is equivalent to the strength of a Dou Ling. Moreover, this place is filled with hot magma. Even if a Dou Wang were to come here, he or she would have difficulty in killing it!” Hearing Xiao Yan’s words, Xiao Ding frowned and said gravely.

“Hehe, if this beast wants to block me, then I’ll have to kill it...” Xiao Yan laughed softly. A thick icy expression surfaced on his face. His eyes stared intently at the huge two-headed snake in the magma lake. He tightened his fist, slowly closed his eyes and gradually recovered the large amount of Dou Qi he had exhausted while fleeing earlier.

Seeing that Xiao Yan did not show any intentions of giving up, Xiao Ding could only shake his head helplessly. Although he knew that Xiao Yan had many hidden cards, the chances of successfully beating this two-headed snake, which was unaffected by the magma, in this environment was basically nothing in Xiao Ding’s eyes.

Seated in this tunnel, Xiao Ding stared blankly at the magma world outside. He started thinking of ways in which he could pull this bull-headed Xiao Yan out.

On one side, Qing Lin also carefully sat cross-legged by Xiao Yan's side. When her dark green eyes swept across Xiao Yan's skin which was grilled red, sadness could not help but flash in her eyes.

As the three of them gradually became quiet. The explosive movement of the magma lake also calmed down. When the exploding magma pillars calmed down, the two-headed snake which had been scanning all around, finally focused its gaze onto the tunnel. When its gaze found the three people in the tunnel, an excited bloodthirsty screech suddenly sounded inside the hot crypt.

"This is bad. It has discovered us!" Within the tunnel, Xiao Ding involuntarily cried out as he stared at the savage gaze the two-headed snake was giving them.

As Xiao Ding said those words, the two-headed snake swung its two huge heads. An instant later, a hot magma column suddenly shot toward the tunnel. From the looks of it, if it shot into the tunnel, the three people within it would be devoured by the high temperature magma in the blink of an eye.

The hot magma column was like a savage fire dragon and it shot directly towards the tunnel at a dangerous angle.

Just as Xiao Ding planned to grab Xiao Yan, turn around and run, Xiao Yan, who had his eyes tightly closed suddenly opened them. A profound and much more experienced look gradually surfaced within his dark black eyes. Xiao Yan watched the hot flame pillar indifferently as he gradually stood up. He swayed a little and then mysteriously appeared at the exit of the tunnel.

Seeing the frightening speed that Xiao Yan suddenly displayed, Xiao Ding's expression changed. His gaze stared intently at the former's back and a strange feeling surfaced in his heart without reason. This feeling... was as though the Xiao Yan in front of him had suddenly become another person.

The odd feeling in his heart caused Xiao Ding to frown deeply. His heart clearly felt that something was different but he could not point out exactly

what it was...

As Xiao Ding behind him was deep in thought, Xiao Yan slowly lifted his palm. He suddenly clenched his fist.

Following the clenching of his fist, a strange shapeless energy ripple was scattered from his palm and instantly formed a colorless energy cover over the tunnel entrance.

The magma column shot over and when it was approximately ten meters from the tunnel's exit, it suddenly burst apart without warning. The magma spread in all directions and slowly flowed down. Finally, it turned the colorless cover into a fiery red color.

"A 'Two-Headed Flame Spirit Serpent' usually lives in places of extreme heat and relies on its consumption of magma to live. It has an extremely large potential for evolution. When it is just born, it is a rank one Magic Beast. If it was lucky enough, it may be able to evolve into a rank six Magic Beast which is comparable to a Dou Huang. Tsk tsk. Quite the strange creature. Looks like this place does indeed have traces of a 'Heavenly Flame...' Seeing the two-headed snake creating a huge stir in the magma lake, a faint laughter came out as a soft mumble from Xiao Yan's mouth...

"Hiss!" Seeing that its attack was blocked, the Flame Spirit Serpent's eyes clearly grew more agitated than before. It swung its huge tail, violently smashing toward Xiao Yan who was standing at the tunnel exit.

The Purple Cloud Wings on Xiao Yan's back flapped as he abruptly shot out, easily dodging the attack from the Flame Spirit Serpent.

"Bang!" The huge tail, accompanied by an enormous shadow, violently smashed into the cliff wall. Instantly, an intense muffled noise sounded and numerous huge crack lines appeared on the rock wall and expanded like a spider web. They reached out for over ten meters before they gradually came to a stop.

Floating in mid air, Xiao Yan's hand slowly gripped the hilt of the Heavy Xuan Ruler on his back. He suddenly drew it and stepped on the air. Suddenly, his body appeared on top of the head of the Flame Spirit Serpent.

Being exposed to the magma flame at such a close distance, Xiao Yan would have immediately fainted from the high temperature being emitted had it not been for Yao Lao controlling his body.

The heavy ruler in Xiao Yan's hand carried a ferocious explosive sound. On the body of the ruler, a turbulent purple colored Dou Qi slashed across the air, forming a huge purple colored arc that appeared extremely beautiful.

"Bang!" The heavy ruler was like a thunderbolt that did not give the Flame Spirit Serpent any chance to react as the heavy blade smashed ferociously onto the snake's head. Instantly, the hard fiery red scales were cracked open. Threads of bright red blood flowed out from the gap in the scales and dripped into the magma, turning into nothingness.

"Hiss, hiss!" Receiving such a heavy blow to its head, the Flame Spirit Serpent let out waves of sharp hissing. Its huge tail thrashed about wildly above its head. Xiao Yan's body was like a small boat in a storm amidst these violent actions. Although he appeared to be in a dangerous situation, he was still able to barely maintain the perfect equilibrium between life and death as he moved along with the snake.

The Flame Spirit Serpent thrashing about intensely within the magma suddenly lifted its two huge heads. Its rhombus shape, huge eyes carried a savage bloodthirstiness as it stared intently at Xiao Yan who was repeatedly dodging everything in midair. It suddenly swung its head and a type of deep red flame soared slowly from its body. As the flame gradually rose, it began to permeate through the small space in an instant.

The dark red flame slowly rotated in midair with Xiao Yan at its center.

Staying in the same spot, Xiao Yan frowned as he watched the huge flame surrounding him. The temperature of this flame was not much lower than the Purple Flame from the Amethyst Winged Lion back then. Due to the support from the special environment around the dark red, somewhat blood colored, flame, its temperature was faintly showing a trend of surpassing the Purple Flame's temperature...

"It's using its true strength..." Feeling the increasingly hot flame around,

'Xiao Yan' softly smiled and said, "Little boy, temporarily leave it to me. I'll handle it."

Within the tunnel, which appeared to have a section destroyed, Xiao Ding and Qing Lin started with stunned expressions at the boundless blood colored flame that had permeated throughout the entire crypt. They involuntarily inhaled a mouthful of cold air. A battle at this level... was truly frightening.

"Bang!" In an instant, the boundless dark, red flame suddenly began rotating swiftly. An intense fizzling sound echoed within the enormous crypt.

Following the increased intensity of the rotation, the surrounding flame suddenly wiggled. Over ten Two-Headed Flame Spirit Serpents that were entirely agglomerated from flame energy suddenly surfaced from the flame.

The ten Two-Headed Flame Spirit Serpent's sizes were not much smaller than the actual snake's size. Dozens of enormous savage eyes stared intently at Xiao Yan who was quietly staying in the middle. After they circled around Xiao Yan for a moment, they suddenly cried out in unison. The sharp sound wave reverberated within the crypt and was extremely ear-piercing.

Following the sound wave, the ten plus Two-Headed Flame Spirit Serpents that were completely created from the hot flame suddenly formed a flame formation. After which, they carried a great amount of heat that was sufficient enough to cause the air to steam, as they charged at Xiao Yan from all directions.

The ten plus huge creatures, roughly tens of feet long, danced and attacked within the crypt. The scene they created was extremely spectacular. Naturally, behind this spectacular scene, there hid a danger that was easily enough to kill a person.

Lifting his eyes to watch the Two-Headed Flame Spirit Serpents that were charging from all directions, a faint smile appeared on Xiao Yan's face. He actually slowly closed his eyes.

“Bang!” With the sound of an earth-shattering intense explosion, the ten plus Two-Headed Flame Spirit Serpents simultaneously came into contact with each other at the middle. At the moment they came into contact, they suddenly exploded. The ferocious energy explosion turned into an energy ripple and began spreading outwards, shaking the magma lake, which had just calmed slightly, until it wildly rose once again.

Within the tunnel, Xiao Ding watched the scene of destruction of the magma world in front of him with a dull expression. A paleness involuntarily appeared on his face. Under this kind of frightening attack that could destroy half of Rock Desert City, it was difficult for him to imagine that Xiao Yan could withstand it. He had never seen how strong someone of the Dou Wang level was but he did not think that even a Dou Wang would dare to foolishly meet the attack head on either.

“This guy... what exactly is he doing?” Leaning on the somewhat hot rock wall, Xiao Ding sat on the ground with a defeated face.

“Company Leader... Young Master... is still alive!” Just as Xiao Ding’s head was foggy, a surprised cry from Qing Lin suddenly sounded by his ear.

Hearing this, Xiao Ding abruptly lifted his head. His gaze shifted to the boundless flames and found a young man’s figure appeared indistinctly at the spot where the energy was spreading.

Chapter 197: Yao Lao Taking Action

In the enormous magma crypt world, a deep red flame was permeating in midair. The air carried a poisonous vapor. This world was one where an ordinary human would die the moment he came into the slightest contact with it.

At the spot in midair where the dark red colored flame was hovering, a young man's figure gradually appeared. As the human figure appeared, the surrounding permeating red colored flame also suddenly swarmed toward his body.

At that moment, the young man's figure had turned into something like a black hole. The surrounding red colored flame wildly poured into his body, resulting in the formation of an enormous flame vortex in the air of the crypt. At the middle of the vortex was the young man's figure.

Following this greedy consumption, the surrounding permeating red colored flame grew increasingly faint. In the end, the flames were completely consumed into Xiao Yan's body.

When the final thread of flame gradually disappeared, the human figure in the middle was finally revealed...

Xiao Yan was standing indifferently in midair. There was a thin layer of dense white colored flame pasted on the surface of his body and the dark red flames were completely consumed by these white flames.

"Not bad, it has been a long time since I have tasted such a delicious treat..." 'Xiao Yan' stretched his lazy back as he smiled and said to the Two-Headed Flame Spirit Serpent under him.

TL: The 'Xiao Yan' in this case refers to Yao Lao controlling Xiao Yan's body

"Hiss..." Seeing that the flame it emitted was completely swallowed by the human in midair, there was an extremely human-like shock that flashed across the huge eyes of the Flame Spirit Serpent.

"It's over..." 'Xiao Yan' smiled as he slowly extended his arm to the

Flame Spirit Serpent under him. He then slammed his palm down.

Following 'Xiao Yan's' palm, a shapeless terrifying force passed through the obstacles in the air and in a lightning like manner, violently smashed onto the huge body of the Flame Spirit Serpent. Instantly, the enormous force smashed open some of the fiery red scales on the Flame Spirit Serpent, cracking them. Moreover, with the amount of force behind the attack, the Flame Spirit Serpent's body was violently smashed into the magma lake.

"Hiss, hiss, hiss..." The sudden intense pain caused the Flame Spirit Serpent to raise its head and emit a sharp hissing sound. Its enormous eyes had once again turned blood red as it opened and closed its huge mouth repeatedly. Numerous hot magma columns were shot toward 'Xiao Yan' from all directions.

Eyeing the countless magma columns that shot out from below, 'Xiao Yan' twitched his eyebrows. The thick white flame on his body grew denser. The wings on his back flapped and he shot directly toward a magma column.

"Chi. Chi..."

Xiao Yan's body did not show the slightest sign of dodging. He chose the most reckless posture as he charged directly down. However, any part of his body that came into contact with the magma column would make the magma instantly turn into nothingness as thick white flame burned ever more brightly...

Within the tunnel, Xiao Ding and Qing Lin stared at the formidable 'Xiao Yan'. They were shocked till they were numbed and could only stay and stare blankly at the solo performance.

In a lightning like manner, 'Xiao Yan' broke through the magma columns and appeared on top of the Flame Spirit Serpent. The heavy ruler that was covered by a thick white flame repeatedly smashed ferociously on its huge body. Each time the heavy ruler was swung downwards, the fiery red scales on the Flame Spirit Serpent that could withstand the high temperature of the magma would break open...

With all its attacks being ineffective, the Flame Spirit Serpent could only twist and turn its huge body as it was randomly smashed by the heavy ruler 'Xiao Yan' wielded. Waves of somewhat dreary screams sounded throughout the entire crypt.

The heavy ruler swung and smashed repeatedly. Finally, the Flame Spirit Serpent was unable to resist this kind of intense pain. It dove into the magma lake, bringing its body that was covered with wounded scales with it.

"Hu..." Seeing that the Flame Spirit Serpent chose to retreat, 'Xiao Yan' also sighed in relief. Although he could indeed kill it, he would need to use a Dou Technique with great power. By that time, some of the strong people in the surrounding desert might take notice. After all, the 'Heavenly Flame' represented an extremely destructive force. In this world, there was no one who did not want to possess such a strength...

Following the Flame Spirit Serpent's withdraw, the violent movements in the magma crypt also gradually became calm. However, as a precaution, 'Xiao Yan' did not immediately make a move in search for traces of the 'Heavenly Flame'. Instead, he waited patiently in midair for over ten minutes. Once he had confirmed that the Flame Spirit Serpent had really withdrawn, he finally let out a sigh of relief. He waved to the two people in the tunnel, flapped his wings and began to slowly search the magma crypt.

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"Teacher, will there be traces of the 'Heavenly Flame' here?" After forcing the Flame Spirit Serpent to withdraw, Xiao Yan also gradually regained control of his body. Immediately, he inquired softly.

"Looking at the environment, the extent of irritable energy, and the strange beast, the Flame Spirit Serpent from before, there is a very high chance of a 'Heavenly Flame' existing here..." Yao Lao replied happily.

Hearing this, Xiao Yan heaved a sigh of relief. He licked his lips excitedly as he swept his gaze inch by inch across the magma lake. Anything that was different would be carefully studied by him before he disappointingly continued the search.

The time taken for the search lasted for half an hour. However, he was still unable to find anything that was related to the 'Heavenly Flame'. At that moment, Xiao Yan's heart began to feel a little impatient.

"Teacher, we have searched over half of the crypt. Why have we not noticed the 'Heavenly Flame'?" Slowly stopping his circling body, Xiao Yan finally could not withstand it as he inquired aloud.

"This... I don't know either. Back then, I never came here before..." Yao Lao could only helplessly shake his head at this question.

Hearing this, Xiao Yan bitterly laughed and sighed. He was just about to continue the search when Qing Lin's sharp scream suddenly sounded within the crypt.

Hearing this sharp scream, Xiao Yan was shocked. He hurriedly turned his head toward where the tunnel was and his eyes suddenly shrunk...

At the tunnel area quite a distance away, the Flame Spirit Serpent which had originally fled suddenly came out of the magma. Moreover, it continued to swim at a fast speed toward the tunnel where Xiao Ding and Qing Lin were.

"Dammit!" Eyeing that Flame Spirit Serpent that was swiftly swimming toward the tunnel, Xiao Yan's face suddenly became extremely ugly. He let out an angry curse and turned his body around abruptly. Flapping his wings, he used all his might and shot explosively over.

"Cunning beast." The Flame Spirit Serpent springing up suddenly also caused Yao Lao to scold furiously. A wave of pure energy entered Xiao Yan's Purple Cloud Wings. Instantly, his flight speed increased tremendously.

Xiao Yan shot through the crypt in a rabid fashion. As his flying speed was too wild, a long scar caused by the pressure of the violent wind appeared on the magma below.

Xiao Yan used all his might to hurry back but his distance was too far from the tunnel. Thus, he could only see with his own eyes the distance between the Flame Spirit Serpent and the tunnel exit grow increasingly

near. The huge Two-Headed Flame Spirit Serpent emitted a sound as it opened its menacing huge mouth and gradually appeared outside the tunnel. Its two pairs of eyes were filled with bloodthirstiness as it stared savagely at Qing Lin and Xiao Ding in the tunnel.

“Go, Qing Lin!” Seeing the appearance of the Flame Spirit Serpent, Xiao Ding was the first to regain his composure. He grabbed Qing Lin and immediately retreated quickly. A sneer that held ridicule flashed across the Flame Spirit Serpent’s huge eyes as it watched the two flee. With its huge mouth opened, it suddenly pulled back its head. A terrifying suction force suddenly appeared. Instantly, Xiao Ding and Qing Lin fell backwards and were slowly dragged by this suction force toward the Flame Spirit Serpent...

When the suction force reached its peak, the Flame Spirit Serpent widened its mouth further. A terrifying pushing force explosively surged outwards, smashing Xiao Ding and Qing Lin heavily onto the wall.

“Pu Chi.” With his body slamming heavily onto the wall, Xiao Ding threw up a mouth full of blood. Qing Lin, on the other hand, did not receive much injury with Xiao Ding as a cushion. However, as she watched the savage serpent head closing in, her small face was frightened till it became completely white.

Perhaps it was due to the Snake-People bloodline in Qing Lin’s body but the Flame Spirit Serpent seemed to be somewhat interested in her. Its eyes swept across her. Opening its huge mouth, a violent suction force pulled her, causing her to flip in midair before rolling down to where the tunnel was.

“Don’t come over...” Seeing the increasingly close enormous savage snake head, Qing Lin continued to move backwards with her pale exquisite face.

“Hiss...” The Flame Spirit Serpent extended its scarlet snake tongue and hovered over Qing Lin’s small body. The stench from the snake tongue nearly caused Qing Lin to faint.

In the interior of the tunnel, Xiao Ding watched Qing Lin who was about

to be swallowed by the Flame Spirit Serpent. He wanted to rescue her but the attack from the Flame Spirit Serpent before had caused him to temporarily lose his ability to move. At that moment, he could only watch with his own eyes as the Flame Spirit Serpent's tongue continued to move slowly over Qing Lin's body. Its snake tongue licked Qing Lin's small hand before one of the heads of the Flame Spirit Serpent suddenly turned around and saw Xiao Yan swiftly rushing over. A savageness appeared in its eyes. The soft snake tongue instantly turned as hard as steel. Immediately, it pierced ruthlessly toward Qing Lin's chest.

From a distant, Xiao Yan who was flying swiftly over saw the Flame Spirit Serpent's action. His eyes involuntarily shrunk. A fury and killing intent appeared on his face...

“Ah!”

In the dark green eyes of Qing Lin that appeared to be carved from a green jade crystal, the scarlet snake's tongue continued to expand. Due to the increasing terror in her heart, Qing Lin tore open her throat and unleashed a loud and sharp resounding screech.

Following this resounding screech, three dark green colored tiny spots beside the side of her pair of dark green eyes suddenly surfaced...

The three green colored spots that appeared this time around were much clearer than any other time. If one took a closer look, one would discover that these three green colored tiny spots were like three flower buds.

Chapter 198: Triple Jade-Green Snake Flower Pupils

The screech continued resounding through the air. As the screech grew louder and clearer, the three green colored spots in Qing Lin's eyes suddenly let out a bright glow. The three spots transformed into three tiny green colored flowers in an instant...

Following the appearance of these strange green colored flowers, an intense glow suddenly shot out from Qing Lin's eyes and struck the Flame Spirit Serpent in front of her.

Being exposed to this somewhat strange glow, the huge body of the Flame Spirit Serpent suddenly stiffened. Its pair of huge eyes were filled with some fear as they stared at the little girl in front of it.

The strange glow slowly moved on the Flame Spirit Serpent's body and finally stopped at the middle of the two foreheads of the two snake heads... After the glow stopped moving, it began to gradually shrink. As the size of the glow became smaller, the light that it gave off grew increasingly rich.

The area of the glow continued to become smaller. At the end, it was around the size of a palm. When the glow shrunk to this size, it ceased becoming smaller. A beam of light shot out and two small green colored flowers were imprinted onto the two heads of the Flame Spirit Serpent.

After the flowers appeared, the glow began to gradually disappear. A moment later, the tiny flowers swiftly disappeared from Qing Lin's eyes and her eyes returned to their original dark green in an instant...

After her eyes returned to normal, Qing Lin's body swayed. Her eyelids fell and she collapsed on the ground.

That huge Flame Spirit Serpent continued to foolishly stay on the spot after Qing Lin collapsed. However, every time it swept its gaze onto Qing Lin on the ground, the viciousness and savageness would involuntarily disappear. Replacing it was actually a meekness...

“Damn you!” When the Flame Spirit Serpent was in a daze, Xiao Yan finally broke through the air and appeared. The Heavy Xuan Ruler viciously smashed onto its huge body. Instantly, fresh blood was splashed as it was beaten badly...

“Hiss...” Having received a heavy blow again, the Flame Spirit Serpent finally regained consciousness. It turned its huge body and started furiously at Xiao Yan. However, when its gaze swept across the huge Heavy Xuan Ruler, look of dread appeared in its eyes. Under Xiao Yan’s furious expression, it once again dived into the magma lake.

“Dammit.” Eyeing the Flame Spirit Serpent which chose to flee, Xiao Yan could not help but curse. He then flapped his pair of wings and swiftly appeared by Qing Lin side. In a hurried manner, he picked her up and placed his finger below her nose, heaving a sigh of relief when he felt a breath.

Xiao Yan withdrew an injury healing medicinal pill from his storage ring and forced it into Qing Lin’s mouth. He then carried her and gradually walked into the tunnel. When he saw the wounded Xiao Ding, he gave a bitter smile and handed him an injury healing medicine before saying, “How is it? Is there something wrong?”

“Cough, it’s nothing serious. I will be alright after resting for awhile.” Xiao Ding took the medicinal pill and swallowed it. Xiao Ding exhaled and smiled bitterly.

Xiao Yan leaned against the wall, slowly sat down and hugged Qing Lin into his chest. He rubbed his dust covered face, “Too bad. I haven’t found the ‘Heavenly Flame’...”

“Later, bring Qing Lin back with you. I will stay here and continue searching. Don’t worry. That beast will only flee when it sees me now. There isn’t anything here that can hurt me now.” Xiao Yan mused for a moment before tilting his head as he told Xiao Ding.

“Oh... alright. If we continue to stay here, we will only be a burden to you.” Hearing this, Xiao Ding helplessly nodded his head.

“However, the crypt here is so huge and there are flames all over. It

won't be a simple thing for you to search for the 'Heavenly Flame'."

"Yes. Moreover, I cannot stay too long here. Otherwise, if my movement is detected by some strong people, I'm afraid there will be real trouble..." Xiao Yan nodded and laughed bitterly.

Hearing this, Xiao Ding also nodded and laughed sorely. He was very clear about the attraction the 'Heavenly Flame' posed to those other strong people.

"Ughh..." Just when Xiao Yan felt helpless, Qing Lin, who was on his chest, slowly woke up. She shook her dizzy small head and lifted it. When she saw Xiao Yan hugging her, her face reddened as her small fingers rubbed her temple. She suddenly said softly, "Young Master, Qing Lin may be able to locate where the 'Heavenly Flame' is."

"Oh?" Hearing this, Xiao Yan and Xiao Ding were initially at a loss. Xiao Yan asked in a stunned voice, "How would you know?"

Qing Lin pressed her lips together and smiled. She suddenly escaped Xiao Yan's embrace and ran toward the cave entrance. With her hands around her small mouth, she shouted, "Come out!"

As her shout died off, the huge Flame Spirit Serpent suddenly lifted its body from the calm magma lake. After which, it slowly swam toward the tunnel exit.

Seeing the Flame Spirit Serpent, Xiao Yan became shocked. He quickly stood up, grabbed his heavy ruler and intently watched the Flame Spirit Serpent.

"Young Master, don't hit it. It will not attack us." Noticing Xiao Yan's action, Qing Lin hurriedly grabbed him and said.

"What happened?" Xiao Yan's eyes stared intently at the Flame Spirit Serpent. When he realized that it currently did not possess any intention to attack, he could not help but ask in surprise.

"I'm not too sure..." Qing Lin shook her head and took two steps forward. Her dark green eyes stared at the huge creature in front of her and said with an uncertain voice, "I don't know why, but I seem to have

built a strange bond with it. I can sense it's thoughts..."

"Uh?" Xiao Yan was at a loss. His gaze swept across the Flame Spirit Serpent in front of him that had suddenly become docile. Finally, his gaze stopped at the green colored flower on one of its foreheads. He frowned. That thing was something that was not present before...

"Tsk tsk, tsk tsk... how incredible. Little boy, I don't know if you are unlucky or lucky. Why is it that the people you meet are all so unusual? The last time was someone with a Woeful Poison Body, this time is not any worse. You actually met a little girl who possesses the 'Triple Jade-Green Snake Flower Pupils'..." When Xiao Yan was confused, Yao Lao suddenly marveled with a laugh from his heart.

"'Triple Jade-Green Snake Flower Pupils'? What is that?" Hearing the foreign term, Xiao Yan inquired in wonder.

"Hm... how do I put it... these are strange inborn pupils. It seems that they will only appear in the descendants of humans and Snake-People. Those individuals who possess these pupils can cause people to hallucinate if they are proficient in using them. Think about it, if you could suddenly cause your opponent to be in a daze mid-fight, or to a greater extent cause the other person to hack at his companion. How would you feel?" Yao Lao grinned and said.

"Uh... that would definitely be very fun." Xiao Yan opened his mouth, wiped off his cold sweat and laughed dryly.

"Additionally, these kind of pupils can be said to be the nemesis of all snake form Magic Beasts. This is because there is some probability of them forming a one-sided forceful connection with a snake form Magic Beast... Ah, you can consider this kind of forceful relationship as a very rare mysterious contract." Yao Lao smilingly said, "It is clear that the Flame Spirit Serpent in front of you has unluckily signed a contract with the unskilled 'Triple Jade-Green Snake Flower Pupils' of this little girl..."

"...Damn..." Opening his mouth, Xiao Yan cursed softly. He immediately lowered his head and watched the small timid looking face of Qing Lin beside him. In the future, this little girl would have an incredible

bodyguard. A Dou Ling level Magic Beast bodyguard. Tsk tsk... he had not seen anyone who possessed a pet with this kind of combat level.

“Young Master... it knows where the ‘Heavenly Flame’ is.” Qing Lin pointed at the Flame Spirit Serpent in front of her, took credit, as she said with a smile.

“It knows?” Hearing this, Xiao Yan was at a loss as he licked his lips. “Where?”

“Hm...” Qing Lin closed her eyes and thought quietly for a moment. She then opened her eyes, swept her gaze in all directions and finally pointed awkwardly at the hot magma lake below. In a timid voice, she said, “It says... it is underneath.”

“Hiss...” The corner of Xiao Yan’s mouth twitched as his gaze followed the direction of Qing Lin’s finger and shifted to the hot fiery red magma lake. Under the magma? It was unexpected that the ‘Heavenly Flame’ was actually hidden under the magma. But... must he jump into it to search? Won’t that kill him?

“Ke ke, so that’s why. No wonder I was unable to sense the ‘Heavenly Flame’. It was actually covered by the magma in this crypt.” From within Xiao Yan’s heart, Yao Lao abruptly laughed in a manner that suggested he had suddenly realized something “Teacher... here, can I jump down?” Hearing this, Xiao Yan pulled at his mouth and dryly laughed as he pointed to the bubbling hot magma below.

“Hee hee, if you want to obtain the ‘Heavenly Flame’, it would naturally not be too easy. So how is it? Do you dare to jump?” Yao Lao laughed blandly.

Xiao Yan swallowed his saliva. The corner of his eyes glanced at the fiery red magma and his throat rolled a little. His expression flipped quite quickly.

Standing by the side, Qing Lin watched Xiao Yan with his swiftly changing expression and was also extremely uncertain. She did not dare vouch for the information that the Flame Spirit Serpent passed to her. If something were to happen to Xiao Yan after he jumped down, it was likely

she would be in blame...

“Hu...” After being quiet for a long time, Xiao Yan finally exhaled softly. He tilted his head toward Qing Lin and whispered, “Let it lead the way below!”

“Ah...” Hearing Xiao Yan’s words, Qing Lin’s small body immediately trembled. She could only close her eyes and give the orders to the Flame Spirit Serpent.

Upon receiving the order, an unwillingness flashed in the Flame Spirit Serpent’s huge eyes. However, the forceful connection meant that it could only hiss toward Xiao Yan and dive into the magma. It then lifted its huge head and watched the unmoving Xiao Yan with both ridicule and provocation.

“Hu...” Staring at the Flame Spirit Serpent which had leaped in, Xiao Yan exhaled a few long breaths. His chest rose and fell. A moment later, he suddenly closed his eyes and under both Qing Lin and Xiao Ding’s shocked gaze, leaped head first into the hot magma.

Seeing Xiao Yan leap into the magma, Xiao Ding’s and Qing Lin’s hearts suddenly became extremely anxious. Their eyes stared intently at the swiftly falling figure.

An intense and hot wind blew past Xiao Yan’s ear. The heart in his chest repeatedly beat violently, releasing beat after beat of muffled sound, as though it was just by his ear’s side.

The temperature grew increasingly hot and at one instance, he felt that he was completely isolated from the racket of the outside world.

“Splash...”

Following this clear sound similar to plunging into water, the feelings of the three inside the crypt suddenly tensed up into a spring that would collapse with the slightest pull...

Chapter 199: Under the Crypt

The instant before Xiao Yan was about to enter the fiery red magma lake, a thick white flame suddenly flowed out from his body and wrapped around him.

“Splash...” His body shot into the magma, causing the fiery red magma to splash in all directions.

Hearing this sound, Xiao Ding and Qing Lin above hurriedly shifted their gaze toward the spot on the magma where there were some ripples. However, they did not see any human figure...

“Where is he?” Watching the scene that suggested something had instantly vaporised, Xiao Ding involuntarily turned his head to Qing Lin by his side and shouted.

“Ah?” Qing Lin took a small step back. Her face was pale as she eyed the calm magma lake. The person who had just jumped into it seemed to have instantly turned into ashes the moment he came into contact with the magma, without even letting out a scream.

“Hiss...” A hissing sound from the Flame Spirit Serpent was suddenly emitted from the magma.

Hearing this hissing sound, a joyful expression surfaced on Qing Lin’s face. Her gaze hurriedly swept across the magma. A human figure covered with a thick white flame suddenly surfaced from the magma and smiled as he waved toward Xiao Ding and Qing Lin above.

“Thank goodness... luckily nothing happened.” Seeing Xiao Yan who appeared to disregard the surrounding hot magma, Xiao Ding finally and completely sighed in relief. His entire body sat on the ground with exhaustion as he wiped the cold sweat from his face.

Xiao Yan watched the surrounding slow flowing fiery red magma with a surprised face as his whole body floated in the hot magma. A huge air bubble surfaced by his side, With a ‘bang’, it burst opened and some magma shot toward Xiao Yan’s face. However, in the blink of an eye, it

was consumed by the layer of thick white flame.

With his body protected by the layer of thick white flame, the temperature outside appeared to have been partitioned aside. A somewhat icy feeling hovered around his body instead of the heat that should have been present.

Xiao Yan lifted some fiery red magma in his hand and allowed it to flow down from the gap between his fingers. He smacked his lips together in surprised. Being in contact with the magma at such close proximity gave his heart the creeps. If the flame covering him suddenly disappeared, then his ending...

Thinking of the image of a grasshopper jumping and shriveling in a pan, Xiao Yan felt a chill as he shivered violently. His face had also become slightly paler.

TL: Its a chinese dish where live grasshoppers are grilled

“Little boy, hurry up. Although I can manipulate the ‘Bone Chilling Flame’ and temporarily protect you, it consumes a large amount of my Spiritual Strength. Once I lose the Spiritual Strength needed to maintain it, you will instantly be burnt to ashes by the Bone Chilling Flame even before the magma swallows you. Thus, stop wasting time. Before my Spiritual Strength is exhausted, you must leave this magma lake. Otherwise, the image of a grasshopper in a pan that you have thought of earlier would become reality.” When Xiao Yan was repeatedly sighing in shock, Yao Lao’s laughter suddenly sounded in his heart.

“Yes.” With his mouth twitching a couple of times, Xiao Yan hurriedly nodded seriously. He turned around, eyed the huge Two-Headed Flame Spirit Serpent nearby and laughed, “Hey Big Head, lead the way.”

Hearing Xiao Yan’s shout, the Flame Spirit Serpent simply ignored him. It shifted its head to face the tunnel’s exit and waited for Qing Lin to nod her head and issue an order before it unwillingly turned its body and dived into the magma.

Seeing that the Flame Spirit Serpent caused circle after circle of ripples to form on the magma lake’s surface, Xiao Yan gently exhaled. After

which, he dived into the magma and closely followed behind the Flame Spirit Serpent.

Everything was fiery red within the magma. However, with the protection from the 'Bone Chilling Flame', Xiao Yan could vaguely see the environment around him. His gaze swept once around before he quickly moved his body and closely followed the Flame Spirit Serpent that was diving toward the deepest region of the magma.

In the fiery red magma, the undercurrent surged. Occasionally, there would be a ferocious wave of magma undercurrent appearing from an unknown direction. These undercurrents contained an extremely large amount of energy. If one was hit, even a Da Dou Shi would end up being seriously wounded.

However, Xiao Yan was lucky that the Flame Spirit Serpent was extremely familiar with the place. Before the undercurrents arrived, it would be able to find the most suitable route to sneak by. Xiao Yan, who was closely following behind it, also took the opportunity to successfully avoid these undercurrents from the magma.

In this fiery red world, there did not appear to be any living creature other than the Flame Spirit Serpent. This was not surprising. After all, the requirements to survive here were too harsh. Besides that Two-Headed Flame Spirit Serpent which was a strange beast that relied on consuming magma to live, other Magic Beasts even the lord-like Magic Beast like the Amethyst Winged Lion, would not be able to freely move about in this kind of place without being affected by the environment.

As Xiao Yan continued to head downwards in a never-ending manner toward the bottom of the magma, he could vaguely feel that the outside world's temperature was multiplying even with the protection of the 'Bone Chilling Flame'.

Sensing this phenomenon, Xiao Yan involuntarily swallowed his saliva. His lips shivered slightly, appearing a little blue. People who had never experienced this kind of environment would have difficulty imagining the notion of swimming within magma. It was only a little different from

dancing on the blade of the grim reaper...

As he went deeper and deeper toward the bottom of the crypt, any slight mistake would mean that even with Yao Lao's protection, Xiao Yan's exceedingly frail life would be extinguished.

While Xiao Yan was fearful and trembled for his insignificant life, the Flame Spirit Serpent still showed no sign of stopping. It did not turn its head around to see if Xiao Yan had caught up as it swam toward the deep regions of the crypt with vigor.

In this kind of environment where he was deprived of his five senses, Xiao Yan had no idea of the actual flow of time. He only knew that after continuing in this machine like manner, his feet were already feeling a little numb.

"Little boy, in half an hour time, you must return!" Just as Xiao Yan was feeling a little dazed as he closely followed behind the descending Flame Spirit Serpent, Yao Lao's serious voice suddenly sounded.

"Uh? What?" Hearing this, Xiao Yan was briefly stilled before he hurriedly asked, "What happened."

"We have descended deeper and deeper. Look at the magma outside..." Yao Lao said in a deep voice.

Hearing Yao Lao's words, Xiao Yan's hurriedly lifted his gaze. He was shocked to realize that the surrounding fiery red magma had unknowingly turned slightly greenish.

"What happened?" Xiao Yan asked in an aghast manner as his swimming speed gradually slowed.

"This is a transformation caused by the temperature swiftly rising. The current temperature of the surrounding magma is fast reaching the limit which I can endure." Yao Lao's voice contained an unprecedented seriousness.

"..." Hearing this, the corner of Xiao Yan's mouth twitched. The perspiration on his forehead fell like dripping water as he muttered, "No way! Isn't the 'Bone Chilling Flame' ranked eleventh on the 'Heavenly

Flame' ranking? Don't tell me that the 'Heavenly Flame' below is even more ferocious than Teacher's 'Bone Chilling Flame'?"

"You cannot put it this way. I am now in a spirit state and cannot display much of the strength of the 'Bone Chilling Flame'. Moreover, I must borrow your body to release it. In this way, its strength is dispersed further. Adding the pressure from the surrounding magma and the increasing temperature, a half hour is my limit." Yao Lao quickly explained.

"Alright, make full use of the time." After urging Xiao Yan, Yao Lao once again became silent. It was likely that he did not dare to be distracted, least any accident should occur from the protection from the 'Bone Chilling Flame'.

Nodding his head with a bitter smile, Xiao Yan once again looked at the surrounding magma that was turning slightly green. He involuntarily shouted to the front, "Hey, just how much further?"

Xiao Yan knew that Magic Beasts at the Dou Ling level already possessed an intelligence that could not be underestimated. Thus, he was not worried that it could not understand him.

Xiao Yan's voice was carried by Dou Qi as it passed through the magma barrier and entered the ear of the Flame Spirit Serpent in front. The latter turned its huge head around, randomly hissed a few sounds and suddenly increased the speed of its descent.

"Dammit..." Seeing the Flame Spirit Serpent's action, Xiao Yan could not resist cursing. After hesitating for a moment, he clenched his teeth tightly and kicked his feet violently. His body which was covered by a thick white flame, turned into a white shadow and suddenly shot downwards.

Xiao Yan's body passed through the magma which had almost turned completely green. Perspiration on his face continued to drip into his eyes. Although it felt a little painful, Xiao Yan did not even dare to blink his eyes, afraid that he would be left behind by the Flame Spirit Serpent that had suddenly increased its speed.

"Che, just how much more do you want to descend?" As he continued to

descend, Xiao Yan could clearly feel that temperature was intruding into his body despite the protection from the 'Bone Chilling Flame'.

"Ten minutes! Dammit. If I don't see the 'Heavenly Flame' in ten minutes, I will stop searching!" The repeatedly shivering Xiao Yan tightened his trembling fist when he realized that even his voice had started to quaver at this instant.

...

A few moments later.

"Eight minutes!" The corner of his mouth twitched as Xiao Yan yelled in a low voice.

The Flame Spirit Serpent continued to ignore him as it descended with all its might.

...

"Four minutes!" Xiao Yan's voice was totally dry as he shouted.

...

"Two minutes!" Xiao Yan realized that his heart was pounding intensely in a matter that never happened before.

"Dammit. I'm going back. Not searching anymore!" With crimson eyes, Xiao Yan's descending body suddenly stopped. Without any unnecessary words, he decisively turned around and began swimming upwards with an ashen expression.

However, just as Xiao Yan turned around, the Flame Spirit Beast swung its huge tail and twined around Xiao Yan's waist. Its tail was covered by a rich deep red flame. Although the flame was repeatedly turned into nothingness when it came into contact with the thick white flame, the enormous strength that it contained still violently pulled Xiao Yan back.

"The heck, have I been toyed with by this beast?" The moment when he was pulled back by the Flame Spirit Serpent, a shocking thought suddenly flashed in his mind.

This thought had just surfaced when Xiao Yan was thrown toward the

front of the Flame Spirit Beast. As he was busy dancing around, he shifted his eyes around in search of a path up. However, he suddenly froze onto a green colored glowing thing a short distance away.

The green colored glow covered the magma in this region. When Xiao Yan calmed down and looked over, he faintly saw a green colored lotus within the green glow that was standing in a gentle and soft manner.

“Green Lotus Core Flame’?” As Xiao Yan glanced at this green colored lotus, Yao Lao’s astonished and joyful laughter suddenly sounded in his heart.

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